

**Topic 12 Particle Filters:**  
**The art of hedging your bets**



# Bayesian filtering recap

posterior

likelihood

dynamics

prior

$$p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{Z}_k) = \alpha p(\mathbf{Z}_k | \mathbf{x}_k) \int p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}) p(\mathbf{x}_{k-1} | \mathbf{Z}_{k-1}) d\mathbf{x}_{k-1}$$

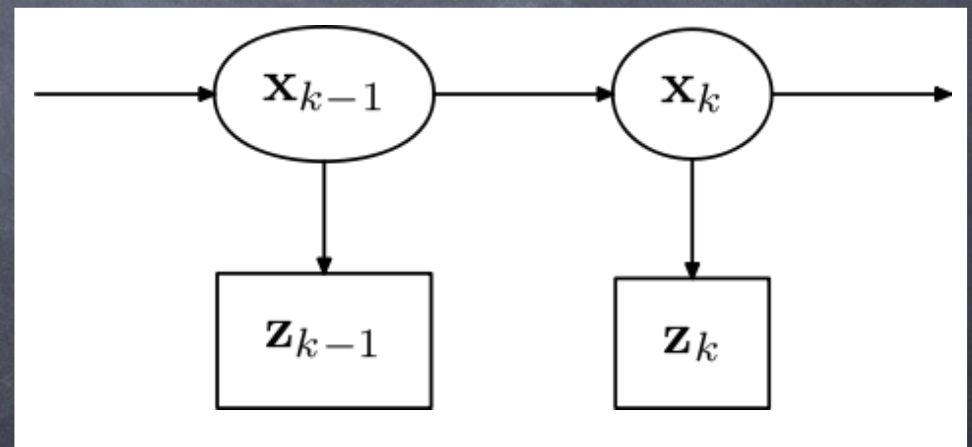
“belief at t=k”

“update”

“predict”

“belief at t=k-1”

- distribution considers all possible robot poses
- assume one true pose
- recursive Markovian inference
- model, not algorithm



# Bayesian filtering recap

posterior

likelihood

dynamics

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$$p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{Z}_k) = \alpha p(\mathbf{Z}_k | \mathbf{x}_k) \int p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{x}_{k-1}) p(\mathbf{x}_{k-1} | \mathbf{Z}_{k-1}) d\mathbf{x}_{k-1}$$

"belief at t=k"

"update"

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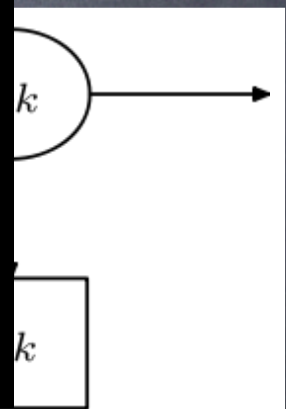
Particle filter is a Bayes filter where multiple hypotheses in the belief distribution are represented computationally as "particles"

- ass

- rec

inference

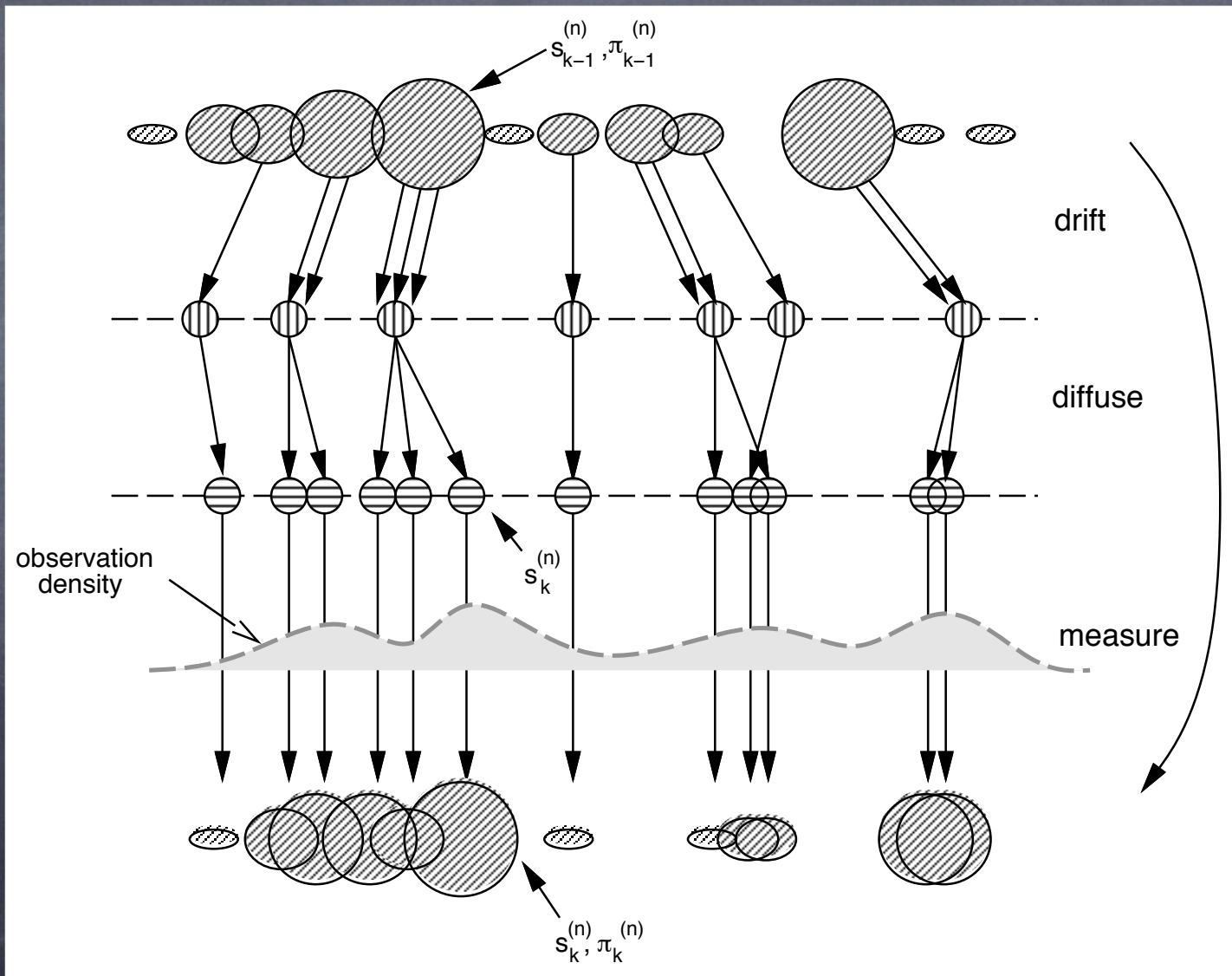
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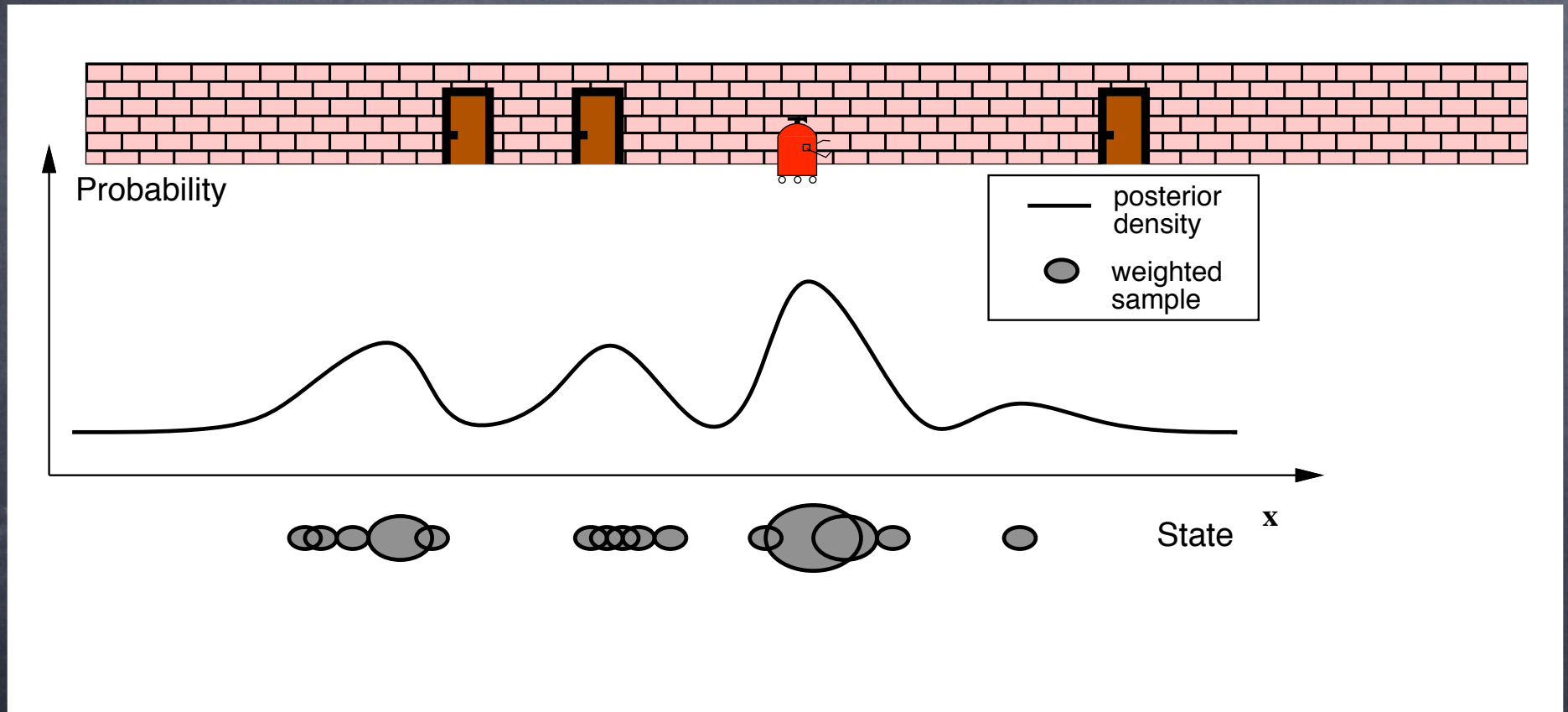
# Condensation Algorithm

[Isard, Blake 1998]

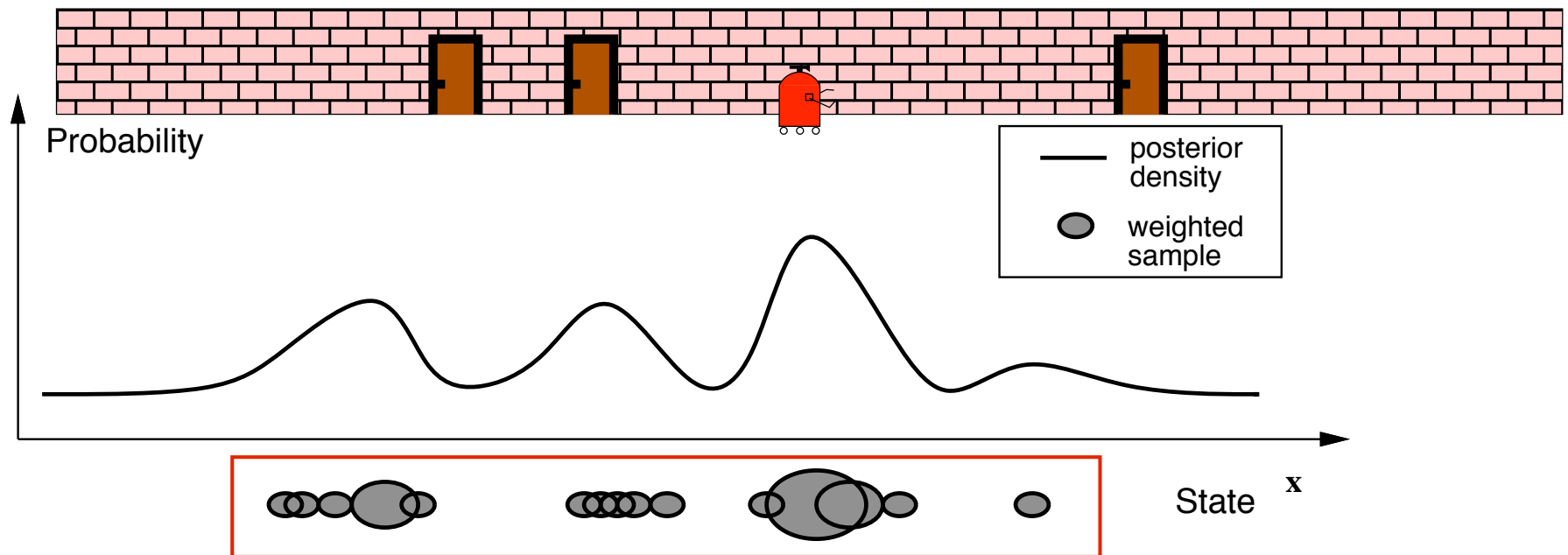
- Condensation is one algorithm for particle filtering
- State belief represented as particle hypotheses



# Representing belief as particles

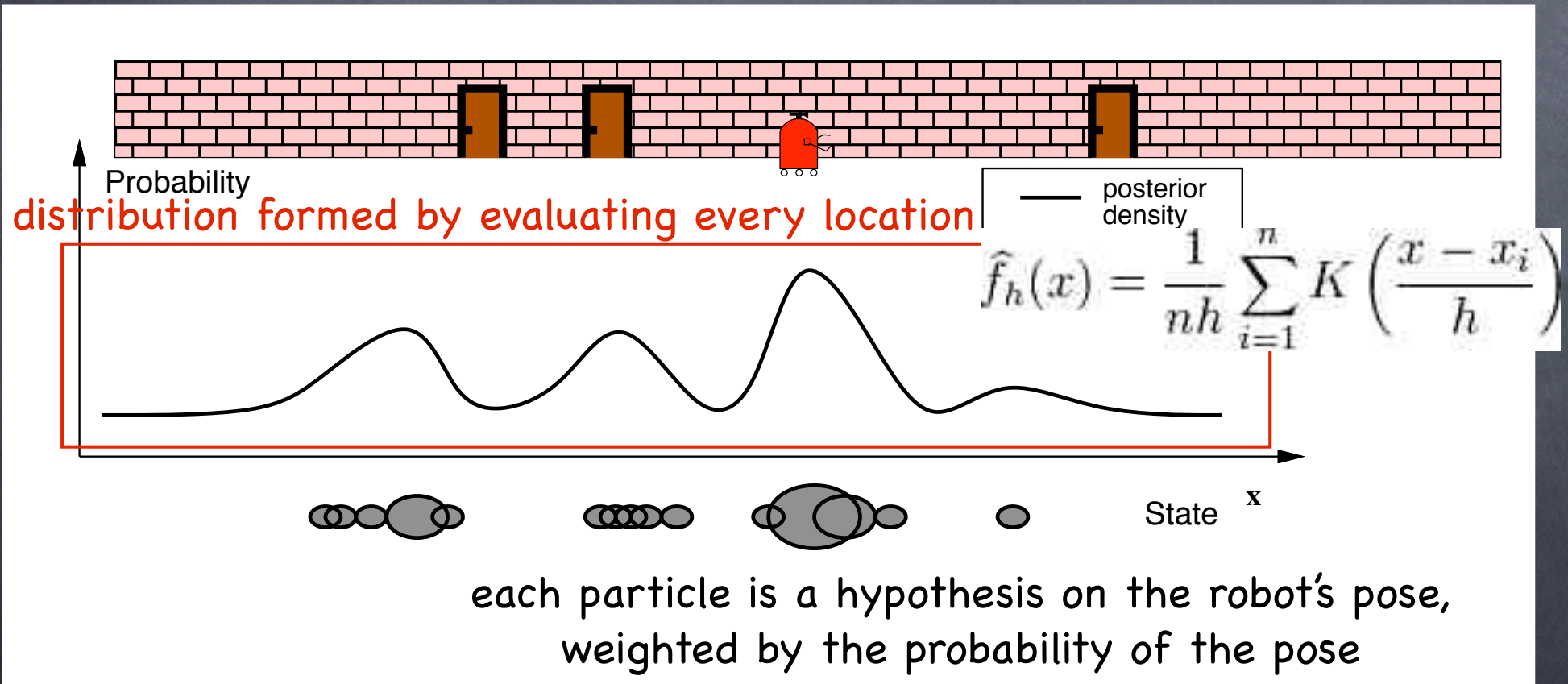


# Representing belief as particles



each particle is a hypothesis on the robot's pose,  
weighted by the probability of the pose

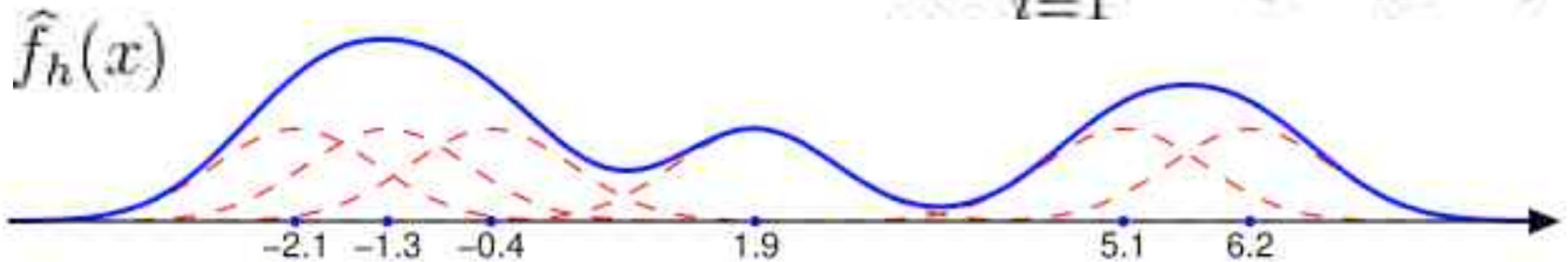
# Representing belief as particles



# Representing belief as particles

Tangent: How do particles form a distribution?

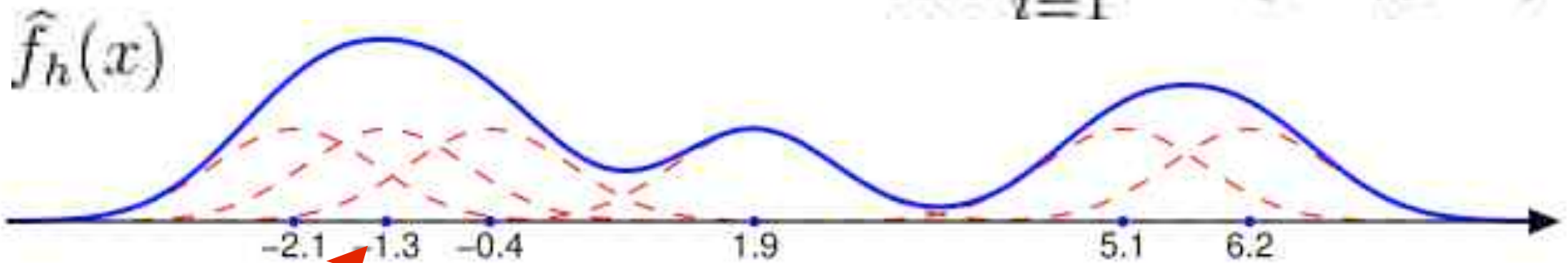
$$\hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - x_i}{h}\right)$$



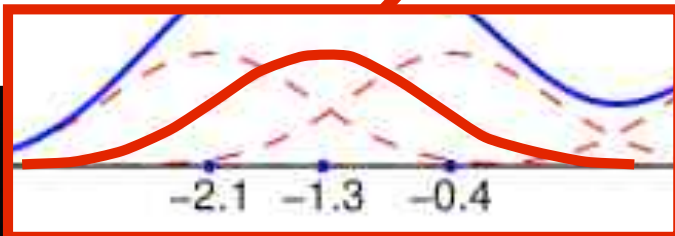
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Tangent: How do particles form a distribution?

$$\hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - x_i}{h}\right)$$



assume a "kernel" function  $K$  at every point,  
a "Gaussian" in this case



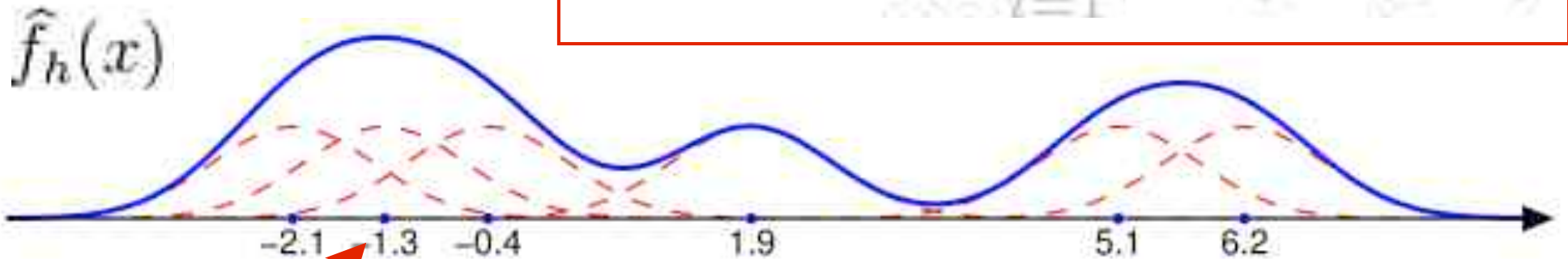
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

# Representing belief as particles

Tangent: How do particles form a distribution?

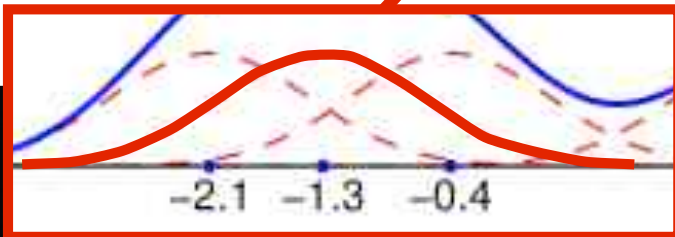
kernel shape results from evaluating one K across all x

$$\hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - x_i}{h}\right)$$



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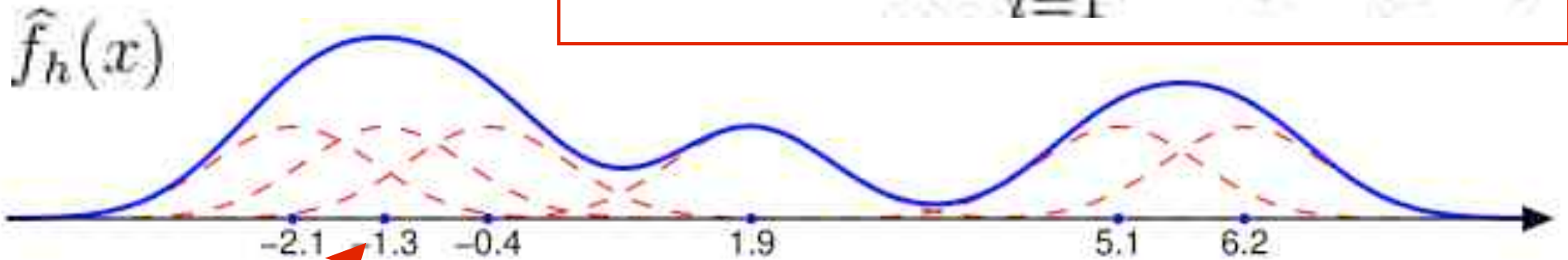


# Representing belief as particles

Tangent: How do particles form a distribution?

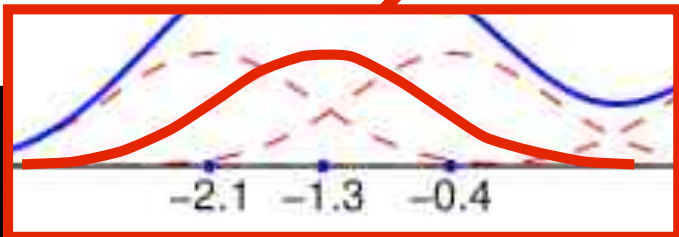
distribution results from evaluating all kernels  $K$  across all  $x$

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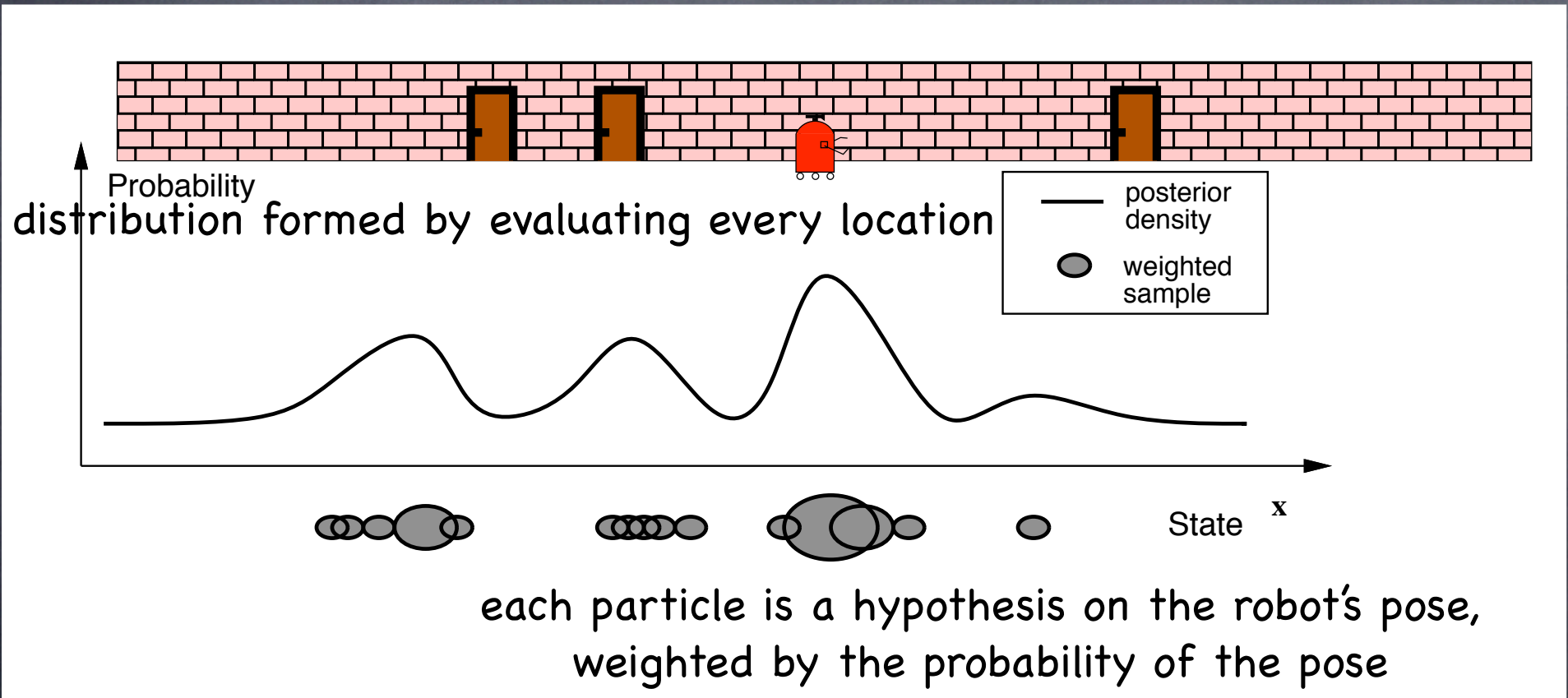


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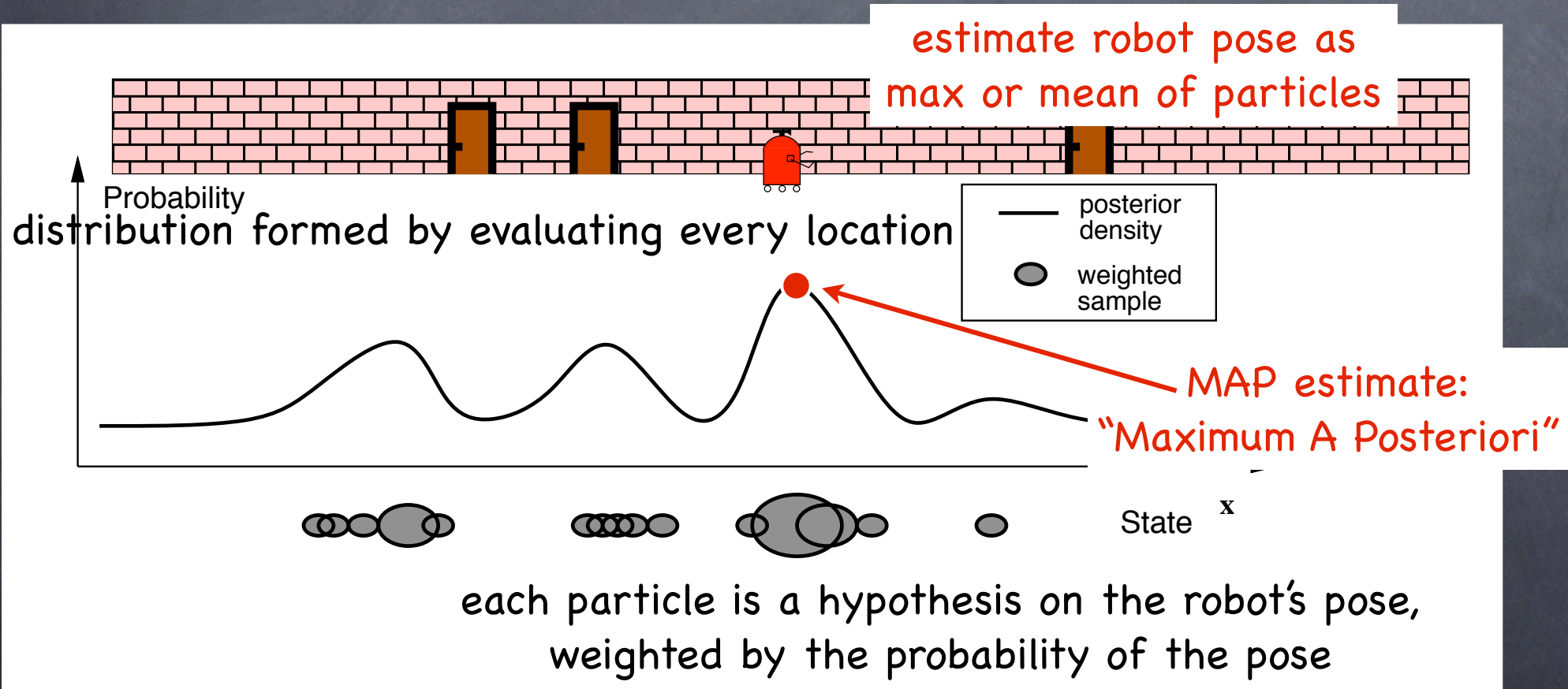
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# Representing belief as particles



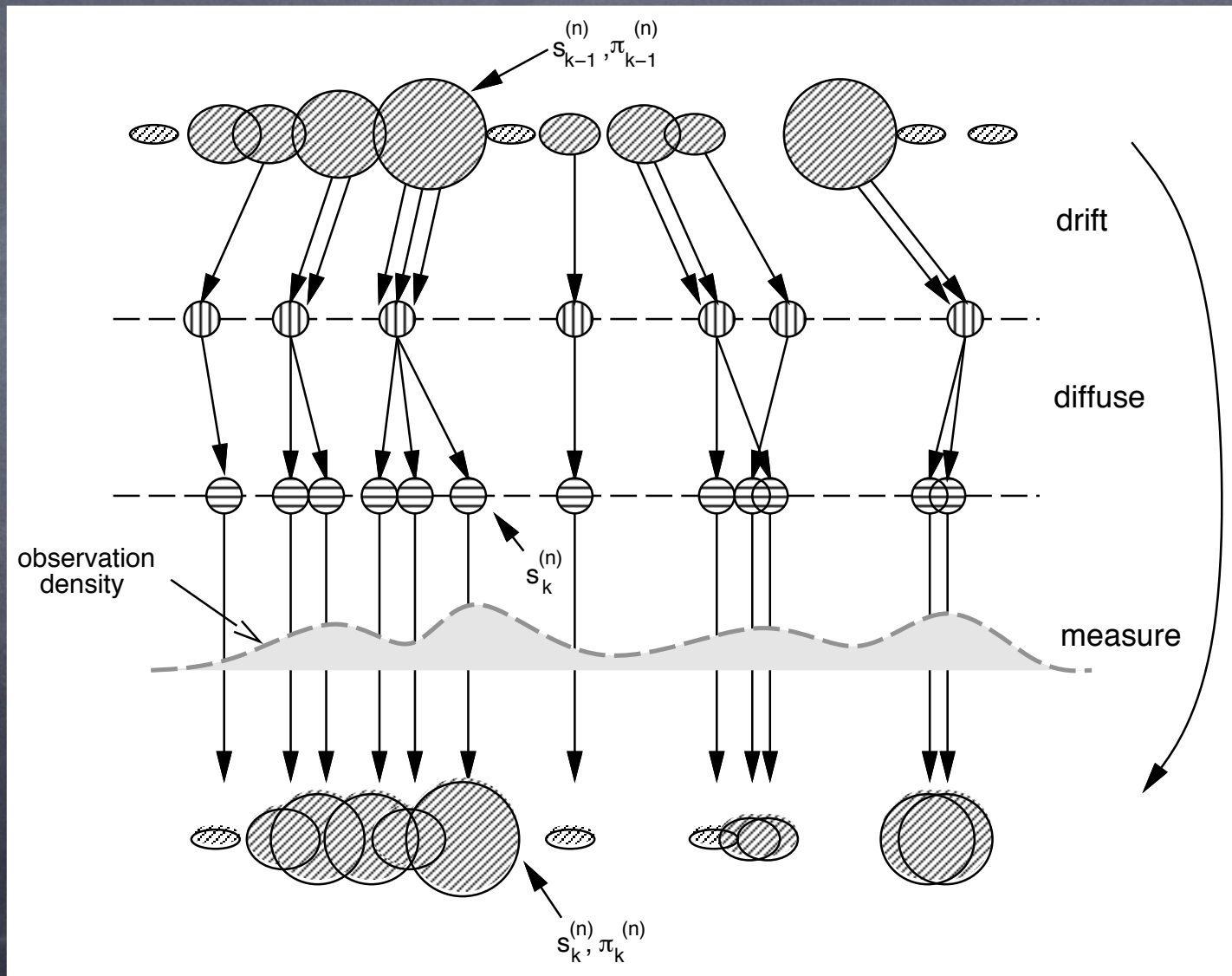
# Representing belief as particles



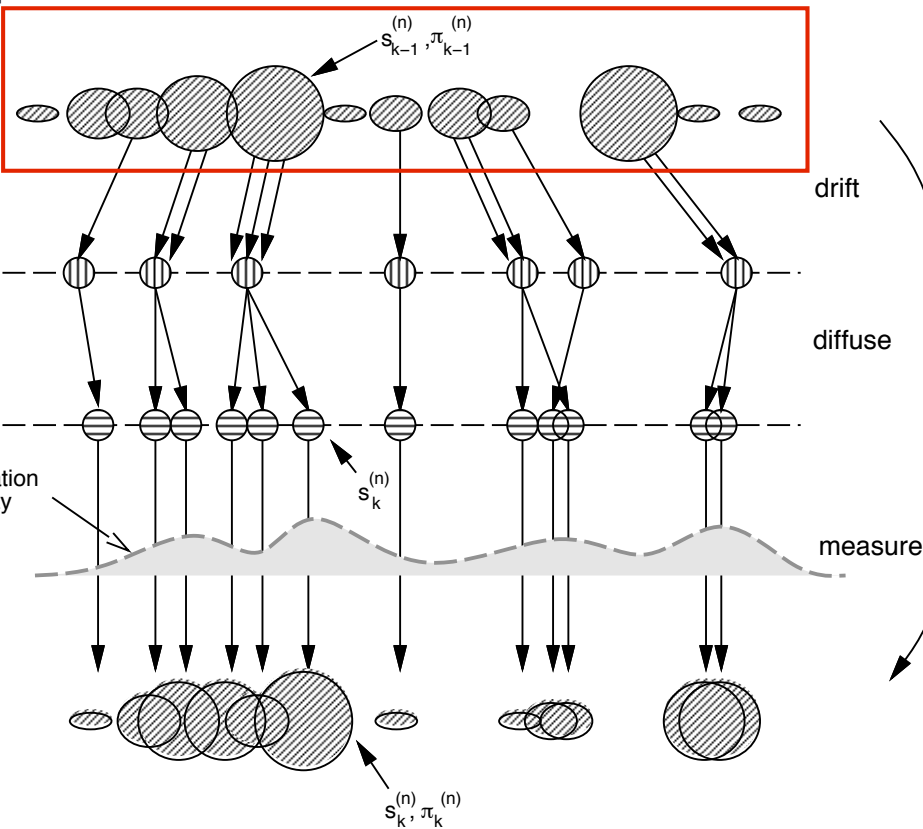
# Condensation Algorithm

[Isard, Blake 1998]

- Condensation is one algorithm for particle filtering



## sample set: particle locations and weights



### Iterate

From the “old” sample-set  $\{\mathbf{s}_{t-1}^{(n)}, \pi_{t-1}^{(n)}, c_{t-1}^{(n)}, n = 1, \dots, N\}$  at time-step  $t-1$ , construct a “new” sample-set  $\{\mathbf{s}_t^{(n)}, \pi_t^{(n)}, c_t^{(n)}\}, n = 1, \dots, N$  for time  $t$ .

Construct the  $n^{\text{th}}$  of  $N$  new samples as follows:

1. **Select** a sample  $\mathbf{s}'_t^{(n)}$  as follows:
  - (a) generate a random number  $r \in [0, 1]$ , uniformly distributed.
  - (b) find, by binary subdivision, the smallest  $j$  for which  $c_{t-1}^{(j)} \geq r$
  - (c) set  $\mathbf{s}'_t^{(n)} = \mathbf{s}_{t-1}^{(j)}$
2. **Predict** by sampling from

$$p(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \mathbf{s}'_t^{(n)})$$

to choose each  $\mathbf{s}_t^{(n)}$ . For instance, in the case that the dynamics are governed by a linear stochastic differential equation, the new sample value may be generated as:  $\mathbf{s}_t^{(n)} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}'_t^{(n)} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{w}_t^{(n)}$  where  $\mathbf{w}_t^{(n)}$  is a vector of standard normal random variates, and  $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^T$  is the process noise covariance — see section 5.

3. **Measure** and weight the new position in terms of the measured features  $\mathbf{z}_t$ :

$$\pi_t^{(n)} = p(\mathbf{z}_t | \mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{s}_t^{(n)})$$

then normalise so that  $\sum_n \pi_t^{(n)} = 1$  and store together with cumulative probability as  $(\mathbf{s}_t^{(n)}, \pi_t^{(n)}, c_t^{(n)})$  where

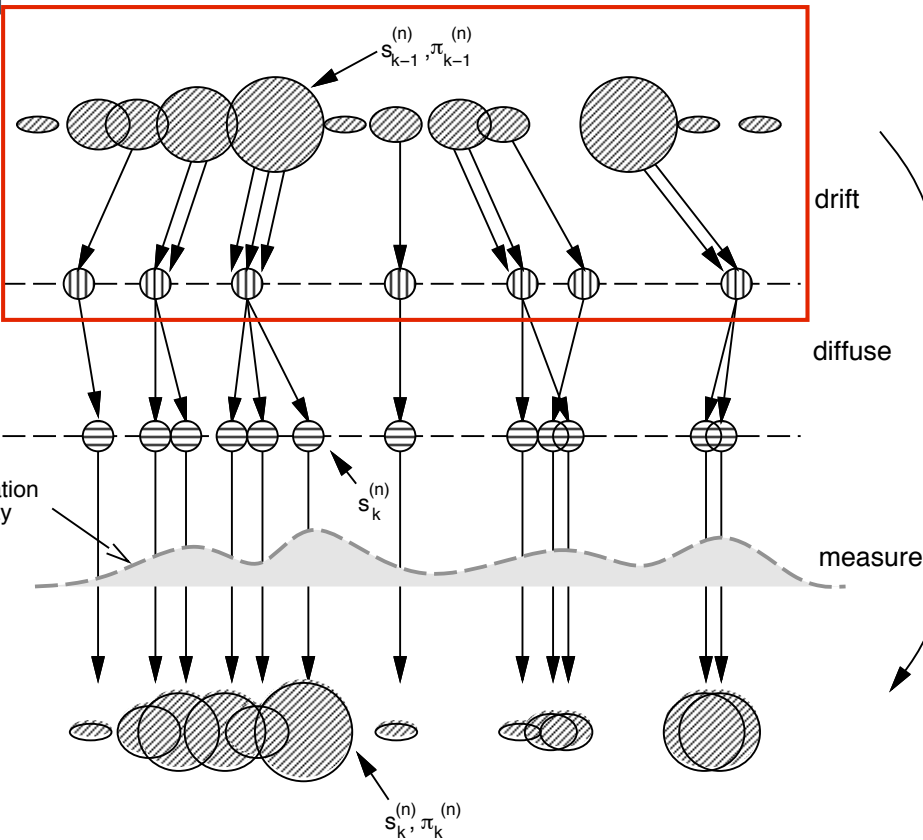
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Once the  $N$  samples have been constructed: **estimate**, if desired, moments of the tracked position at time-step  $t$  as

$$\mathcal{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_t)] = \sum_{n=1}^N \pi_t^{(n)} f(\mathbf{s}_t^{(n)})$$

obtaining, for instance, a mean position using  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$ .

create new particle set based on  
"importance" of current particles



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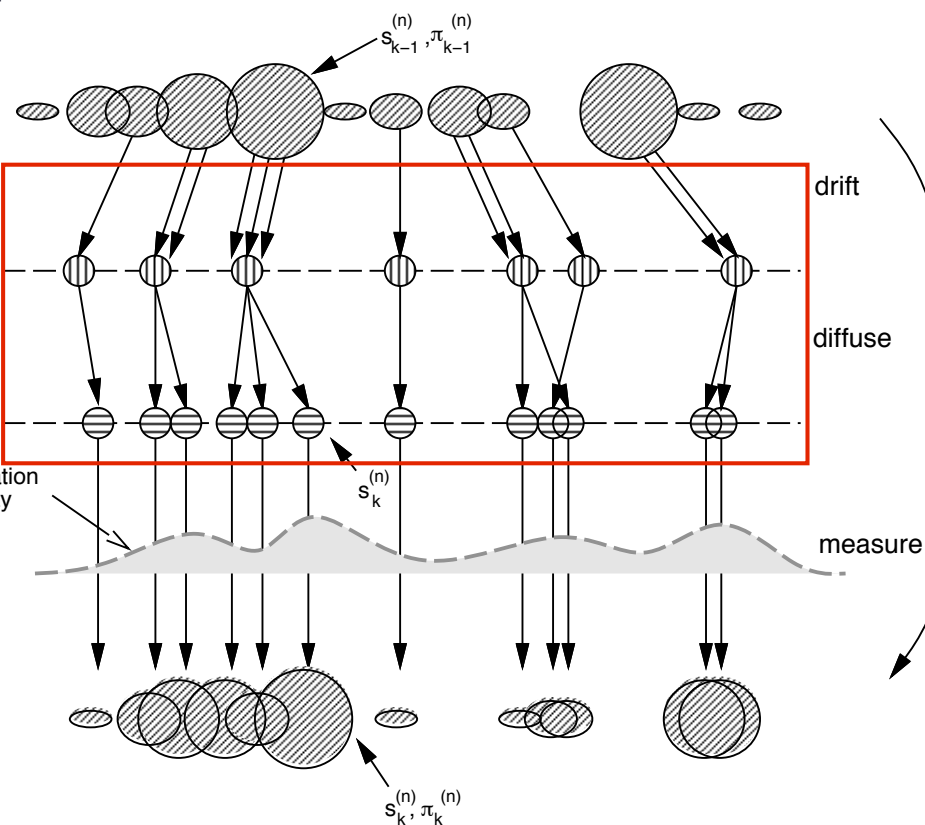
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Figure 6: The CONDENSATION algorithm

## predict movement of particles based on dynamics with noise



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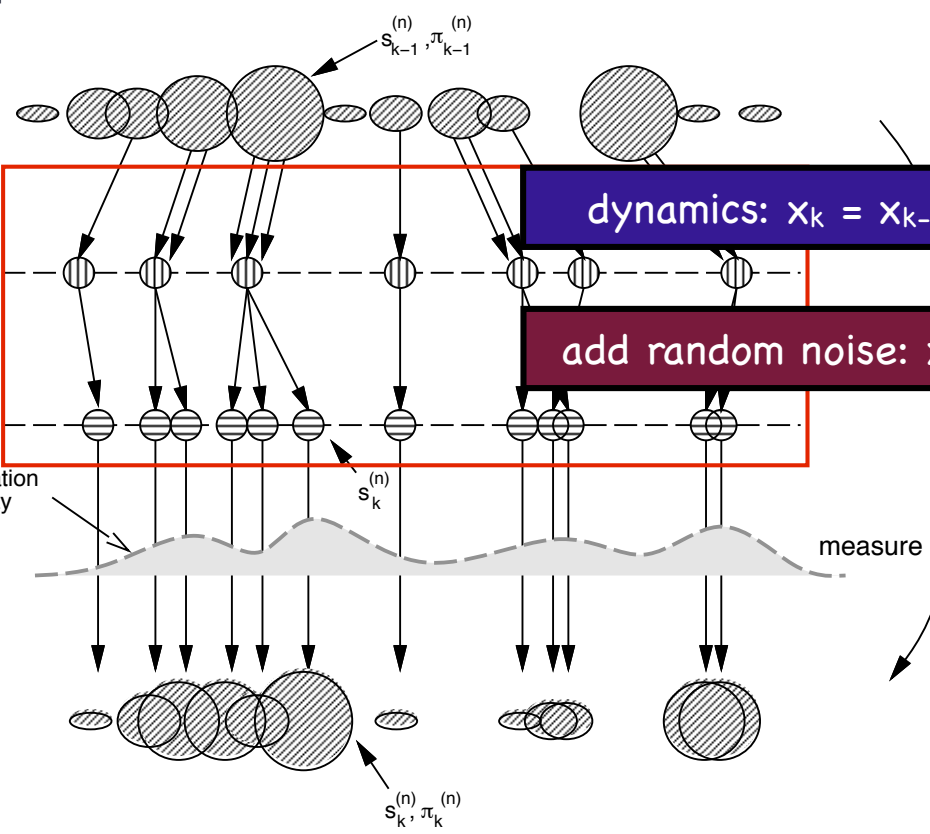
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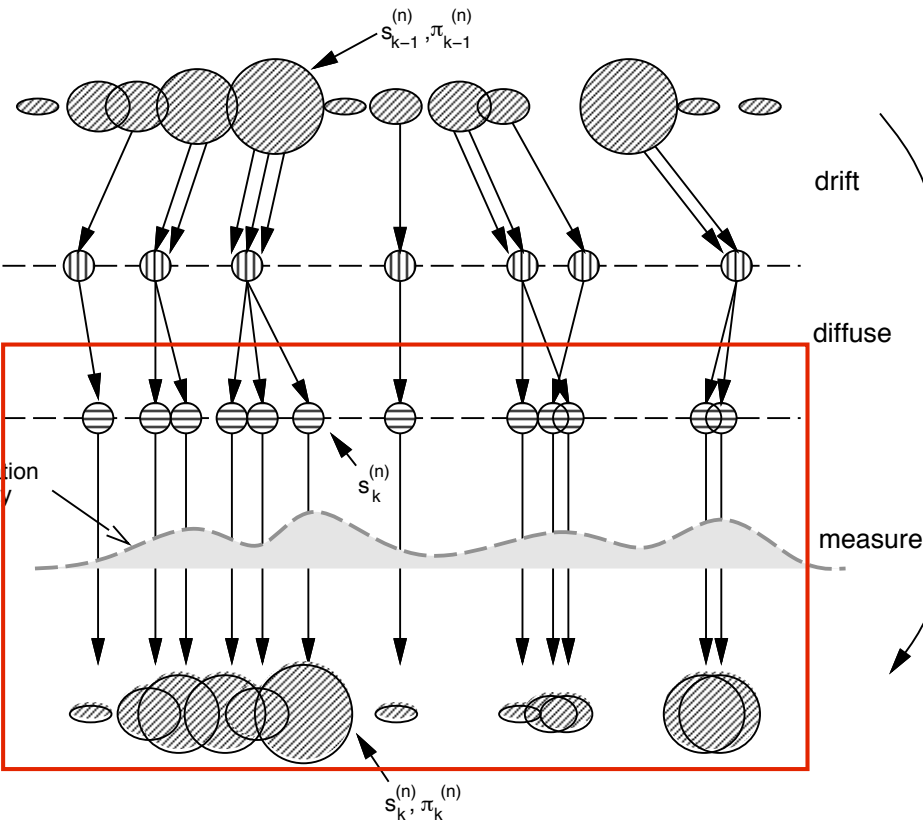
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Figure 6: The CONDENSATION algorithm

## update particle weights based on observed likelihood



### Iterate

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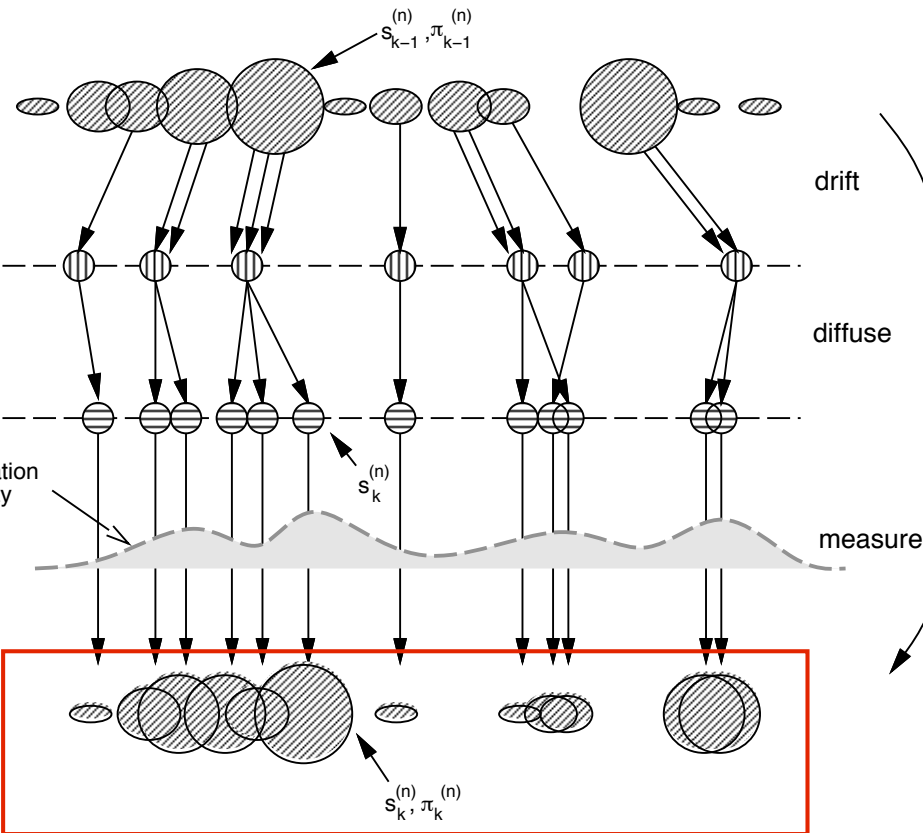
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estimate state as the mean  
(weighted average) of particles



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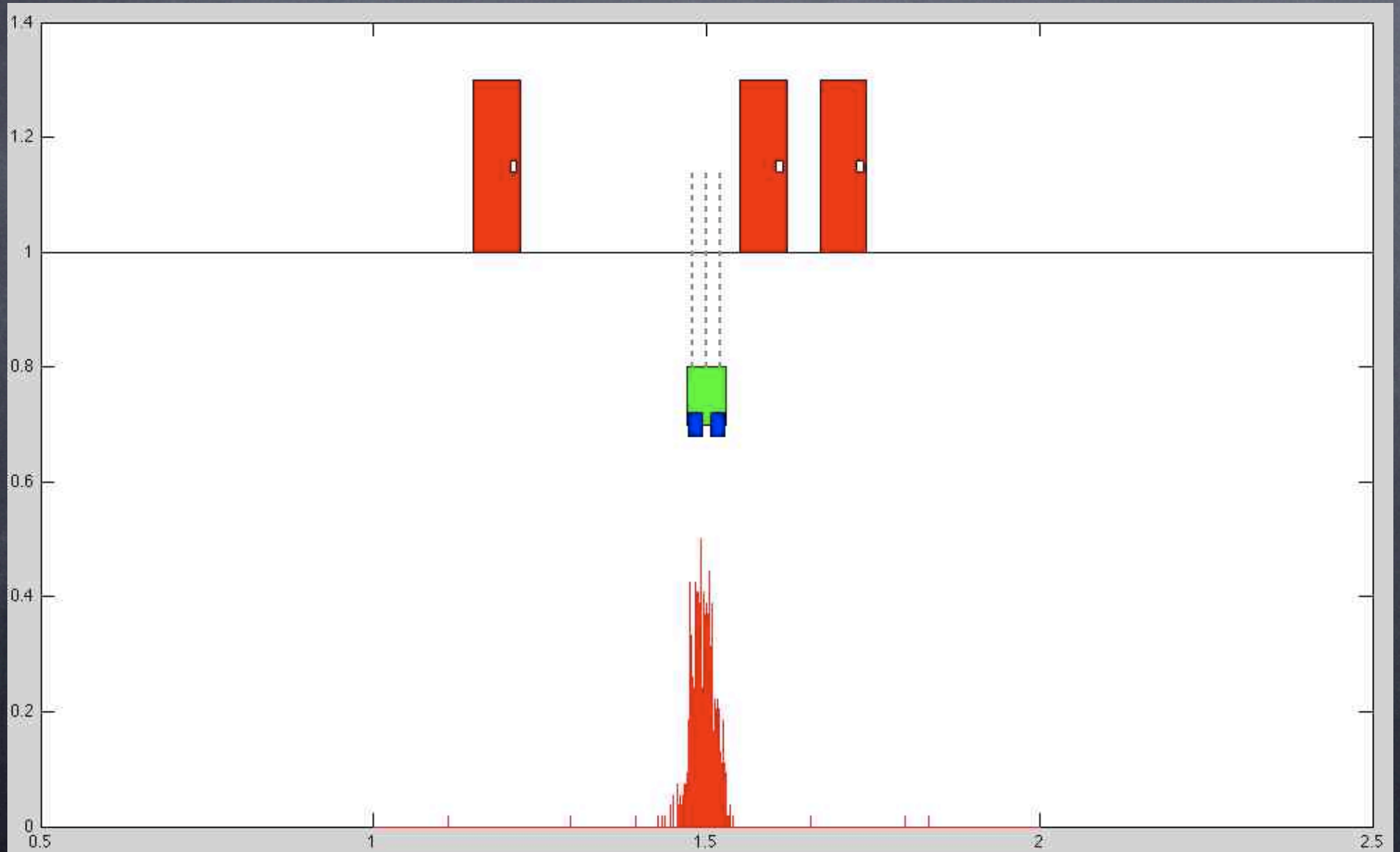
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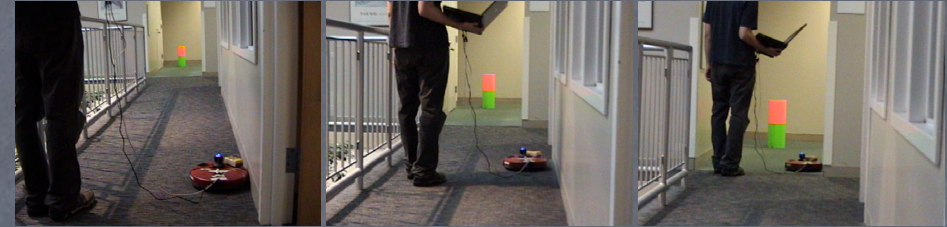
Figure 6: The CONDENSATION algorithm

# matlab example

• `/course/cs148/pub/particlefilter_hallway.m`



# CIT 5th floor localization example (Roomba Pac-Man)



(a)



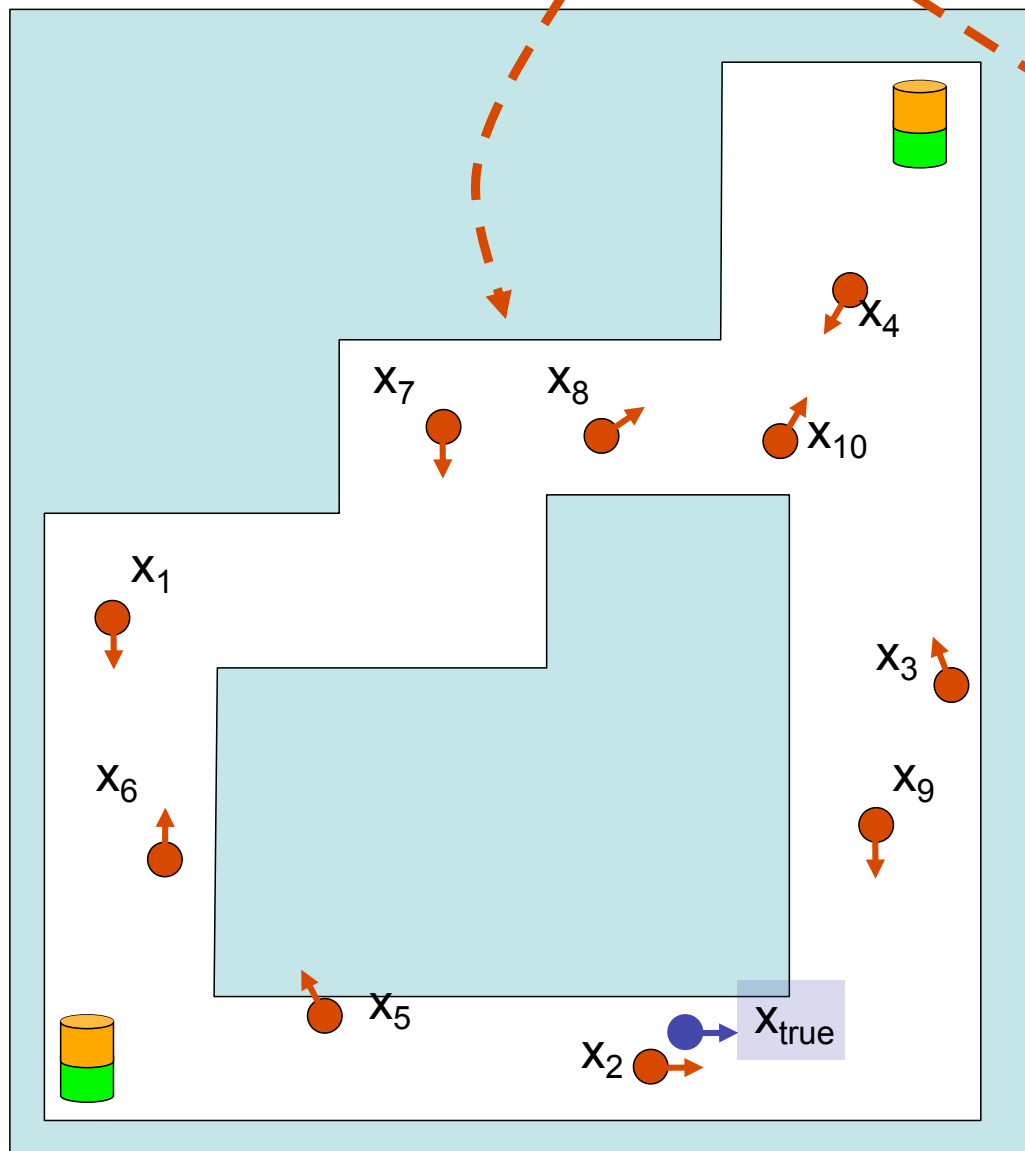
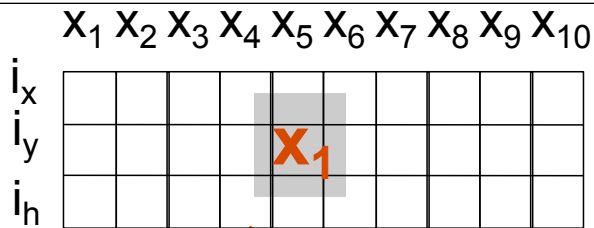
(b)



(c)

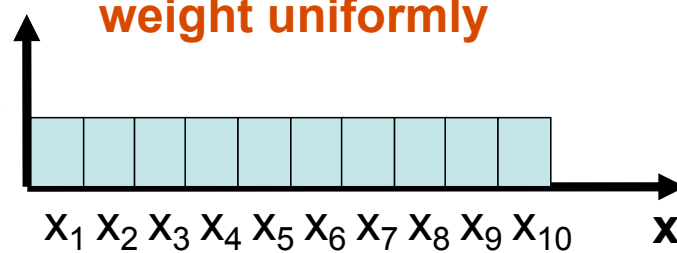


**hypothesize  
random  
poses**



$P(x_1)$

**weight uniformly**

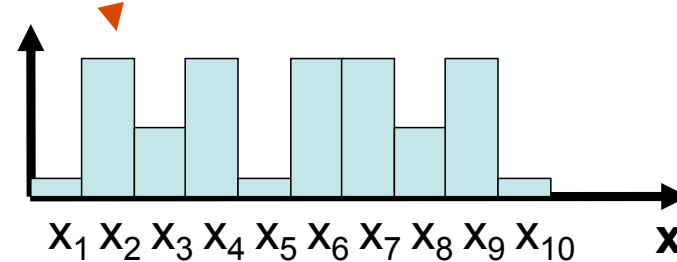


**evaluate likelihood**

$P(z_1|x_1)$

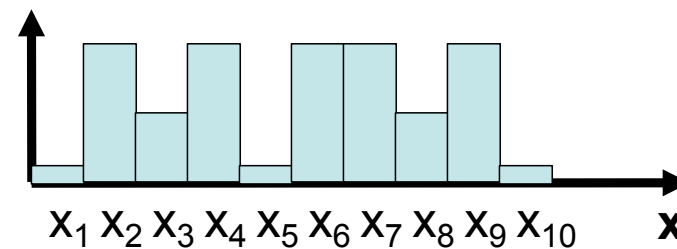
“high”

“low”



**normalize**

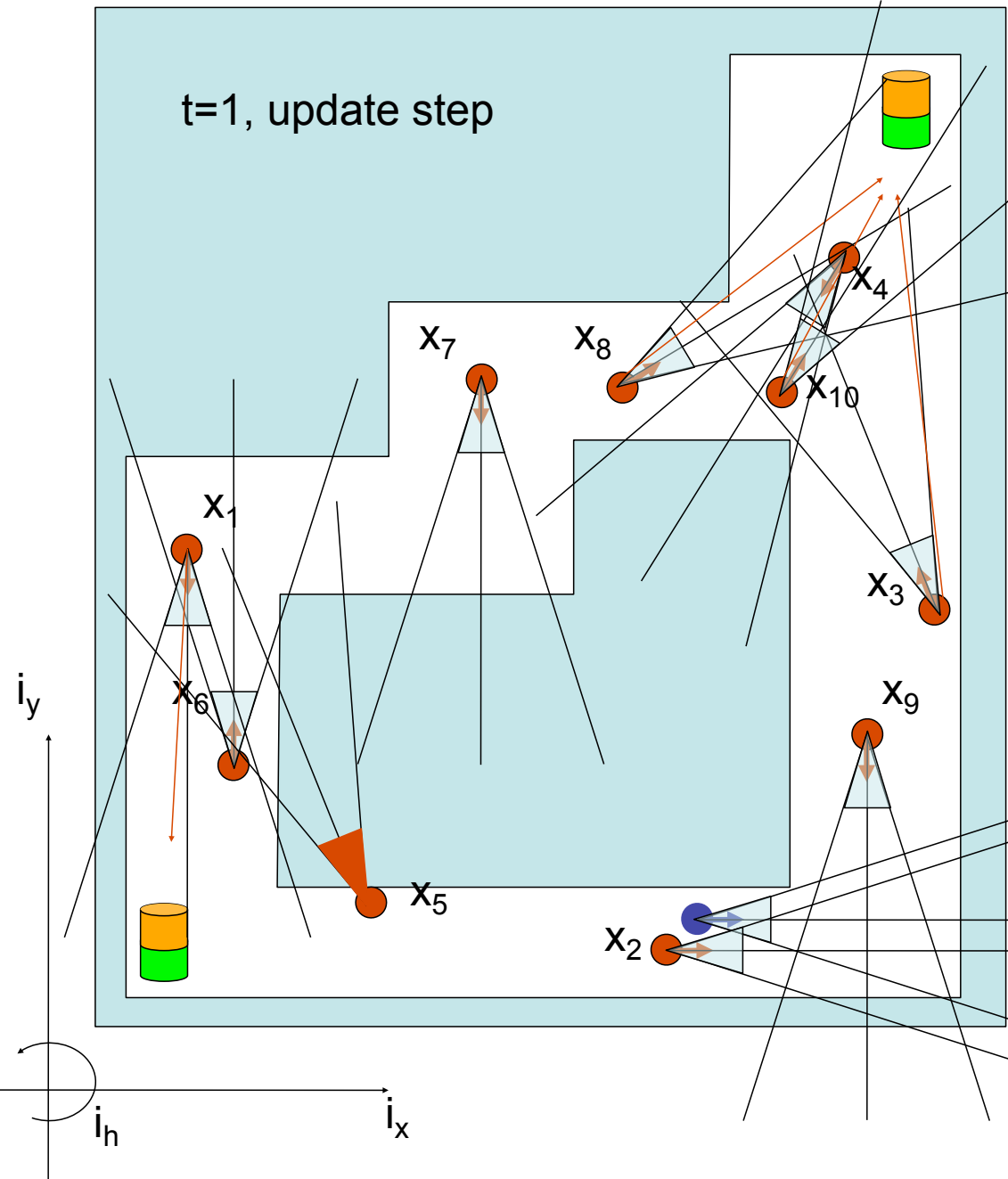
$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \sum_x P(z_1|x_1)$$



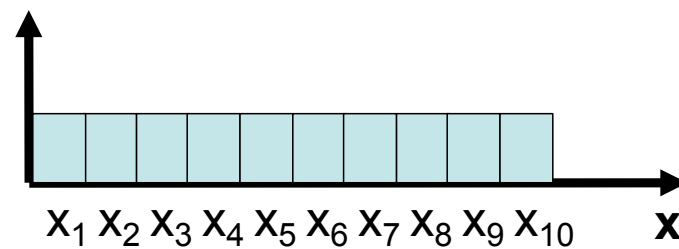
**particle hypotheses**

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										

t=1, update step

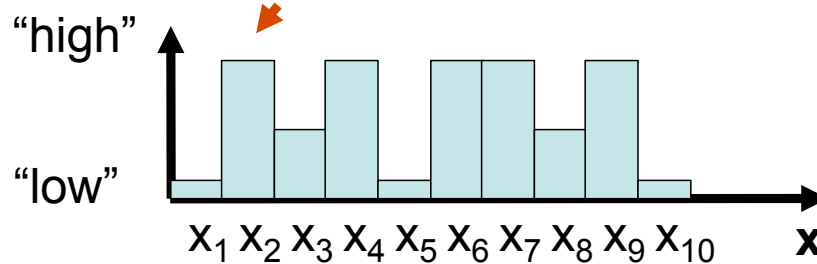


$P(x_1)$

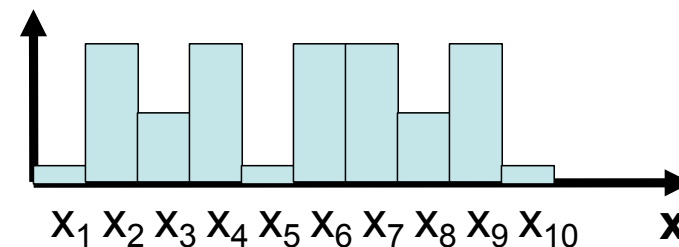


**evaluate likelihood**

$P(z_1|x_1)$

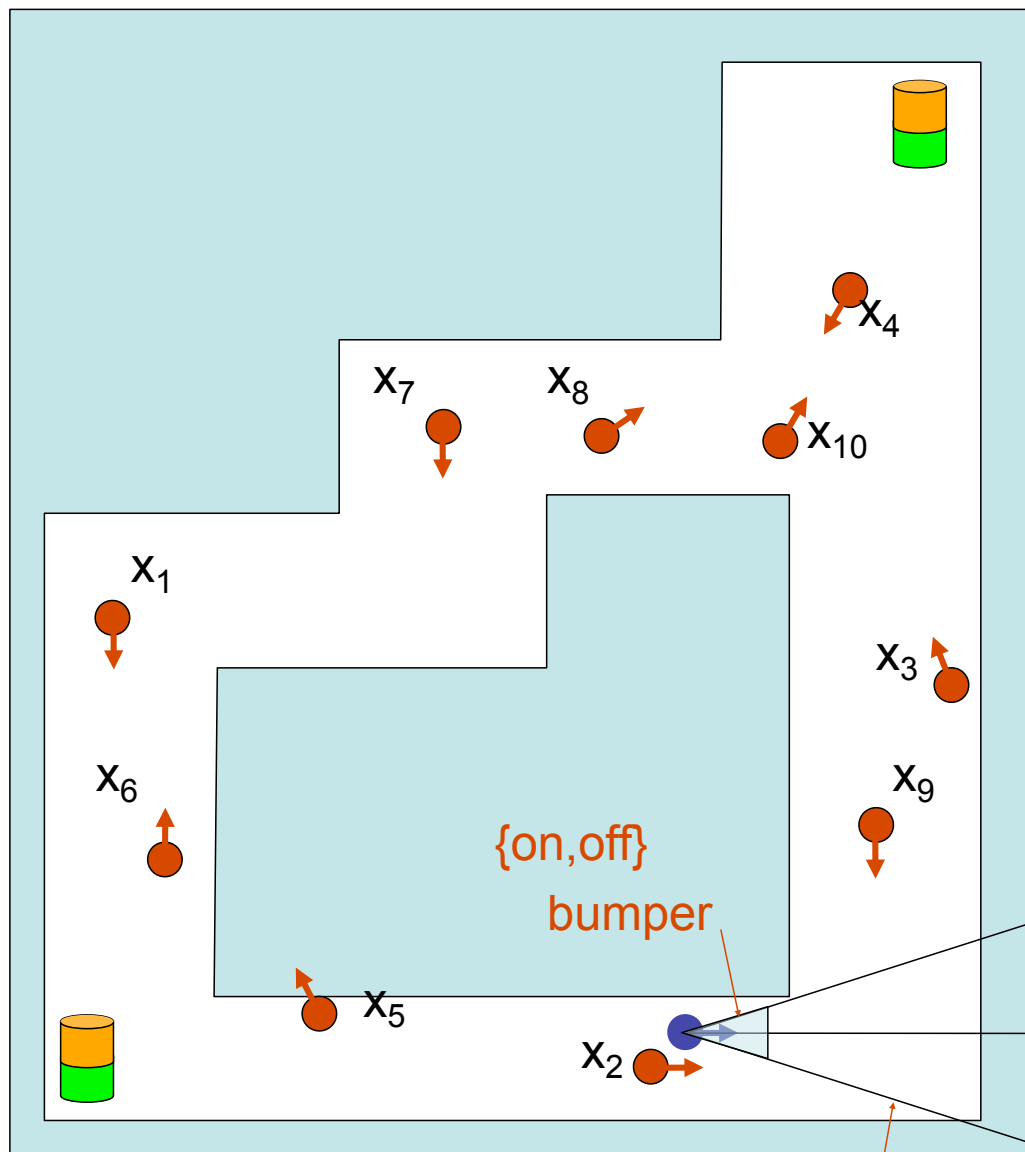


$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \text{sum}_x(P(z_1|x_1))$$

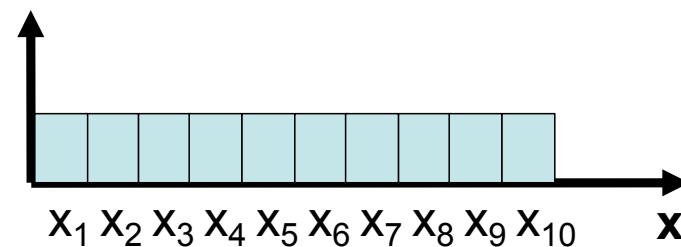


particle hypotheses

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										

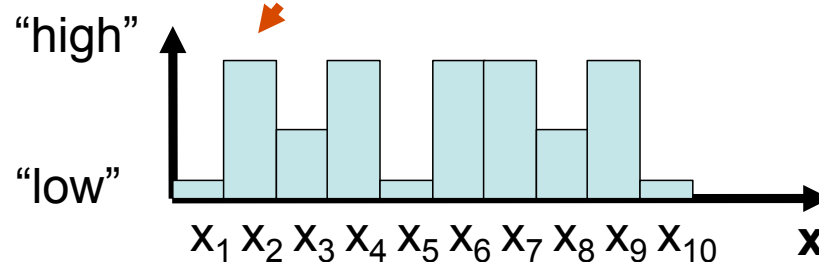


$P(x_1)$

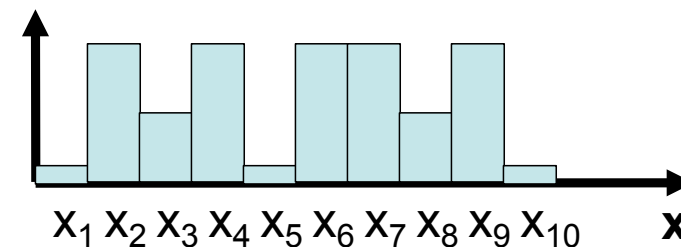


evaluate likelihood

$P(z_1|x_1)$

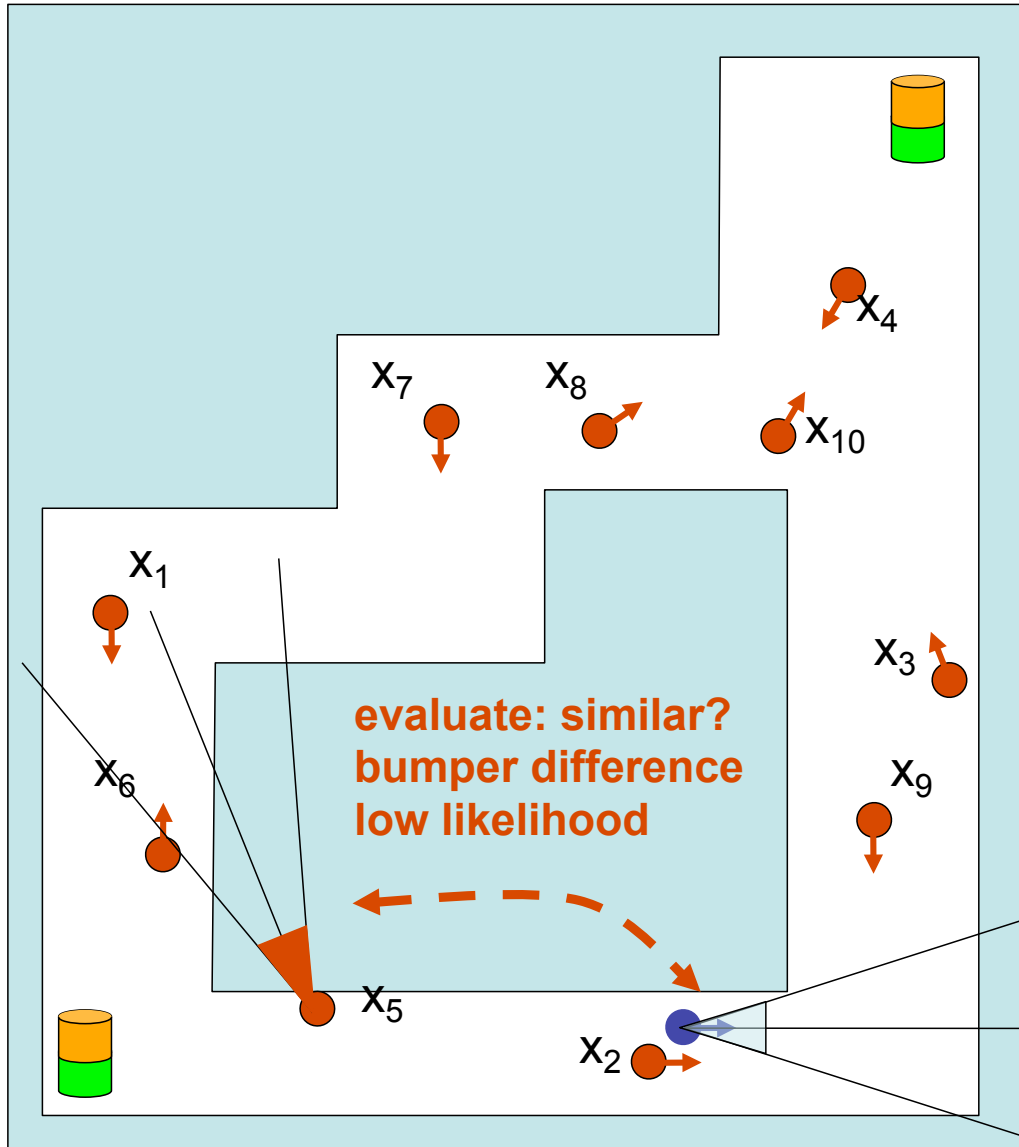


$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \sum_x (P(z_1|x_1))$$

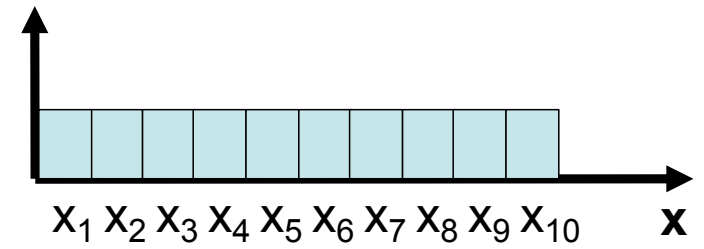


**particle hypotheses**

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										



$P(x_1)$

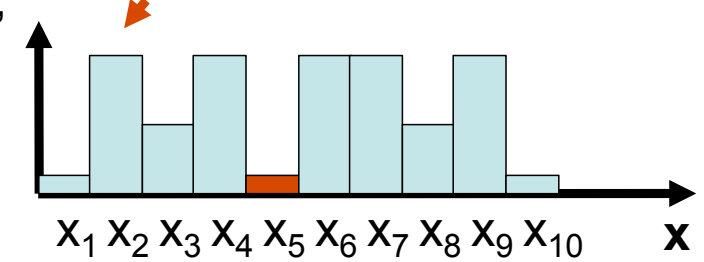


**evaluate likelihood**

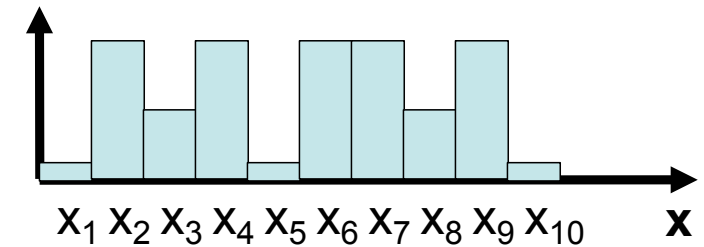
$P(z_1|x_1)$

“high”

“low”

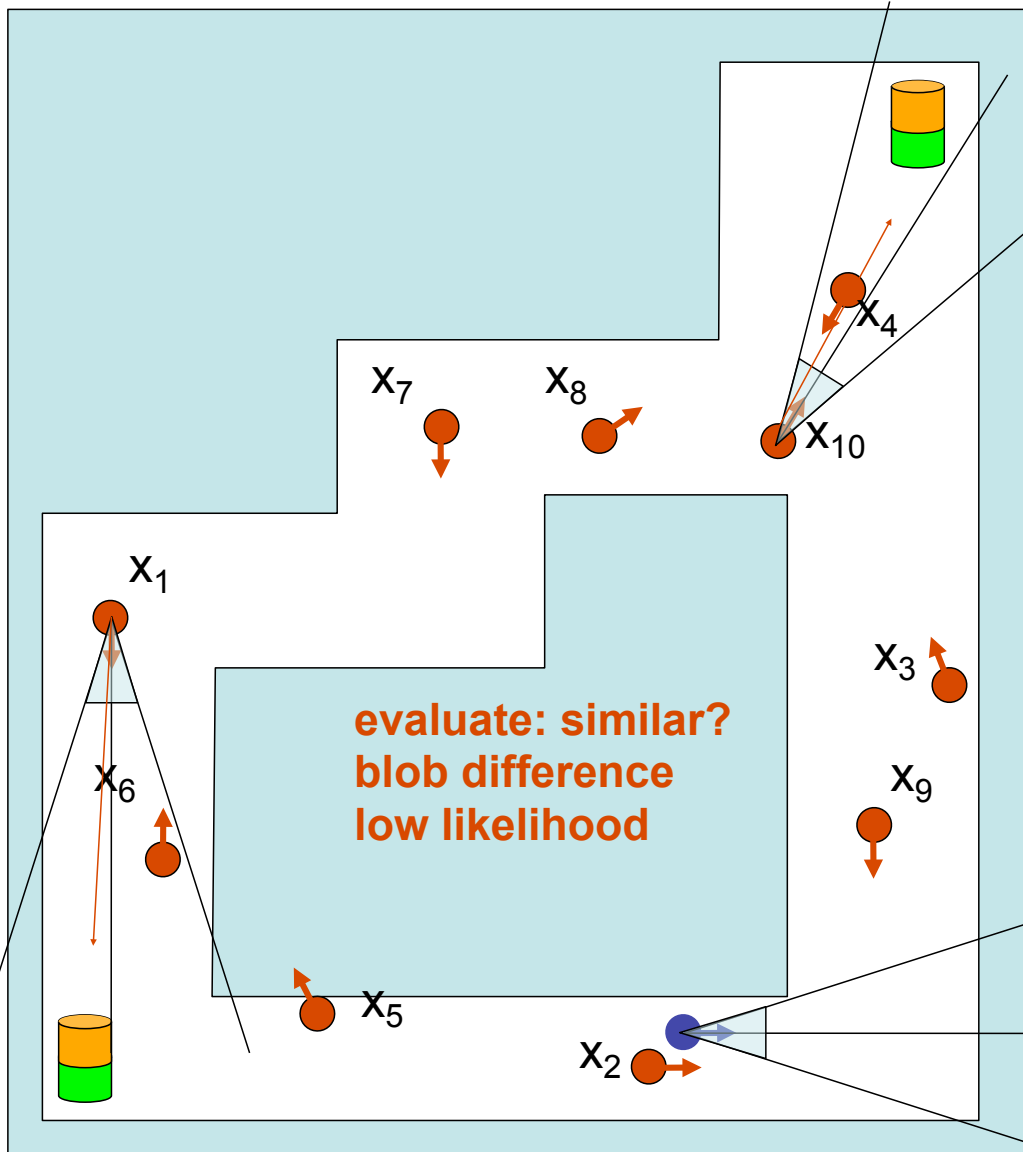


$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \sum_x (P(z_1|x_1))$$

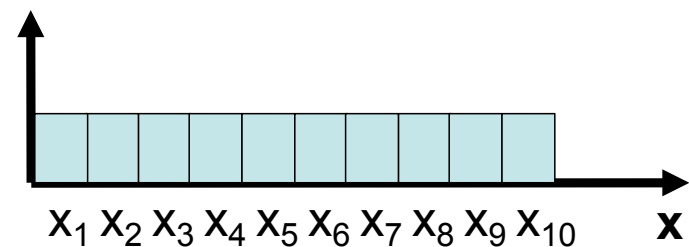


**particle hypotheses**

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										

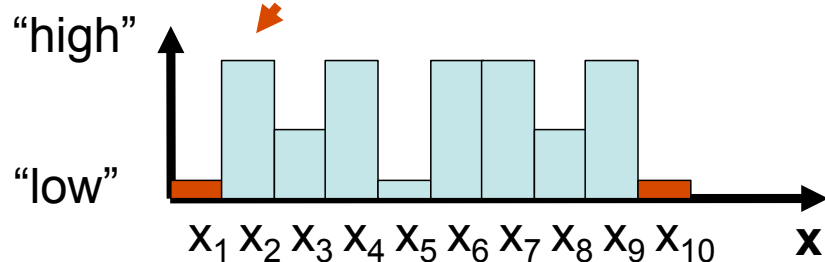


$P(x_1)$

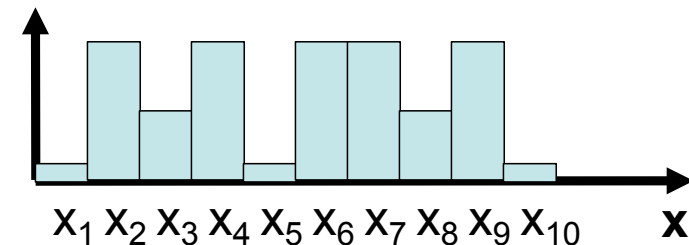


**evaluate likelihood**

$P(z_1|x_1)$

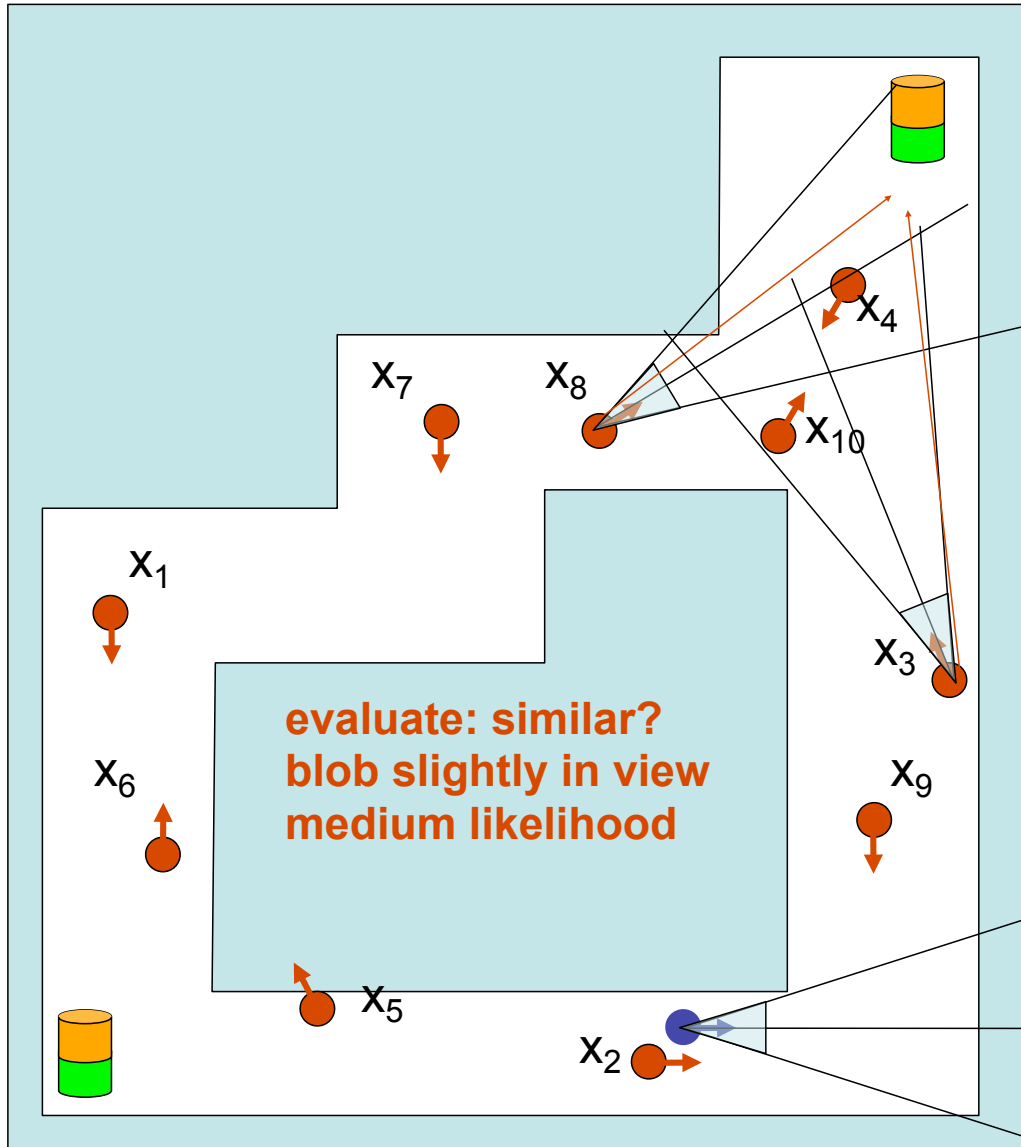


$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \sum_x (P(z_1|x_1))$$



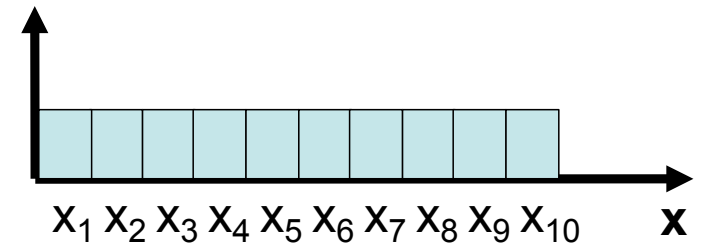
**particle hypotheses**

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										



**evaluate: similar?  
blob slightly in view  
medium likelihood**

$P(x_1)$

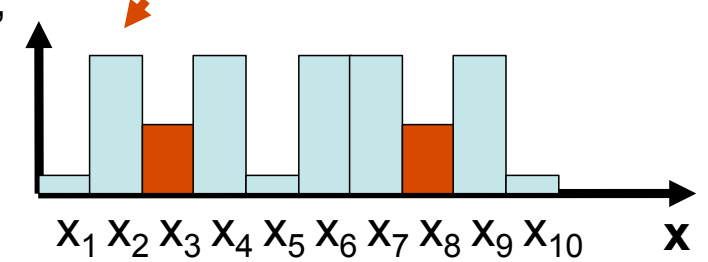


**evaluate likelihood**

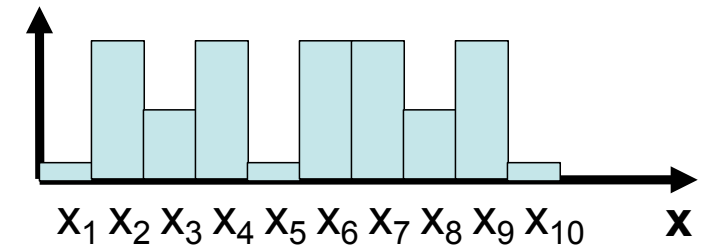
$P(z_1|x_1)$

“high”

“low”



$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \text{sum}_x(P(z_1|x_1))$$



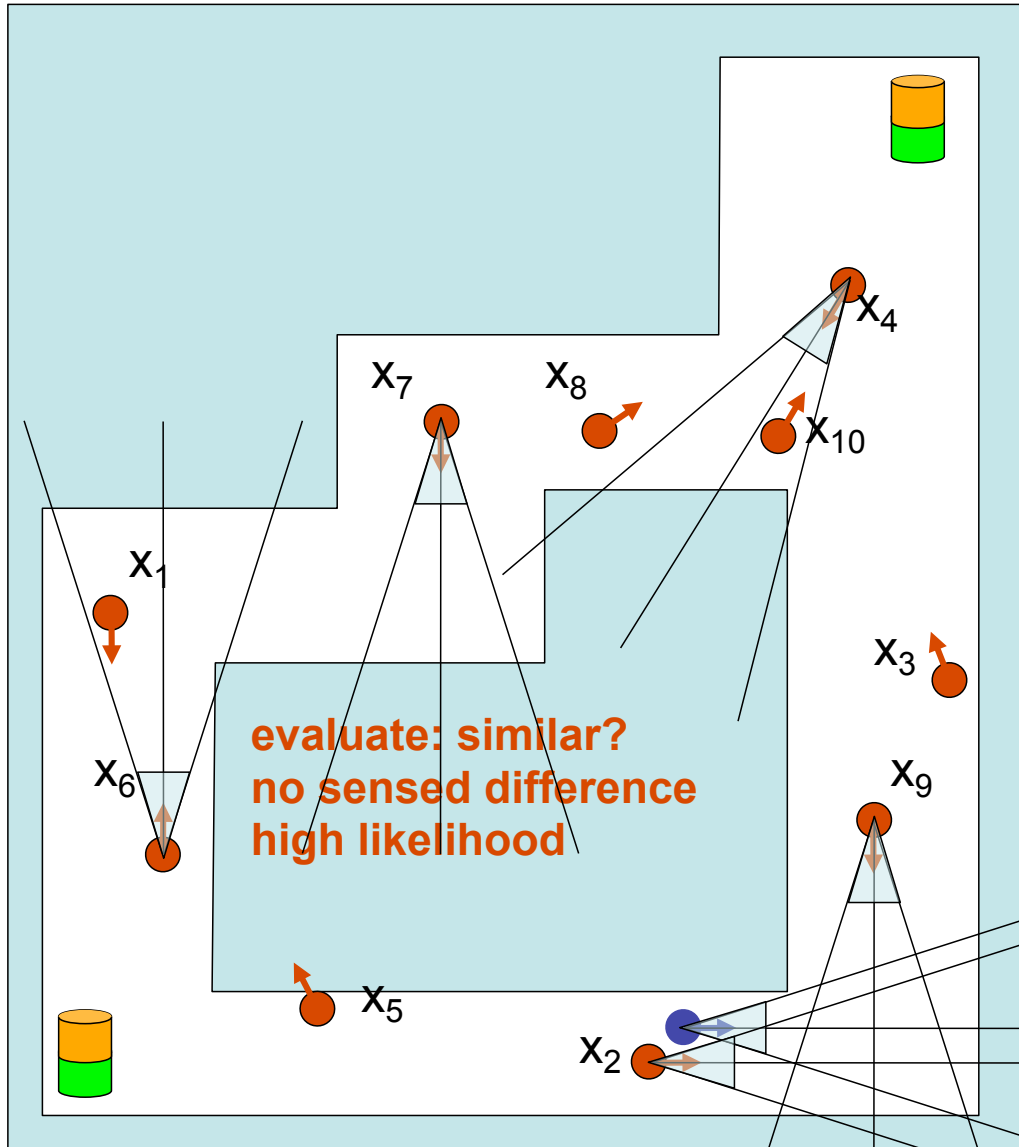
$i_y$

$i_h$

$i_x$

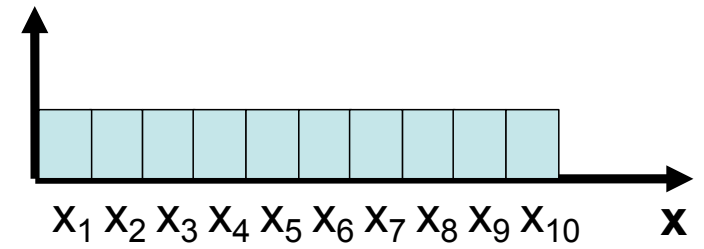
**particle hypotheses**

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										



**evaluate: similar?  
no sensed difference  
high likelihood**

$P(x_1)$

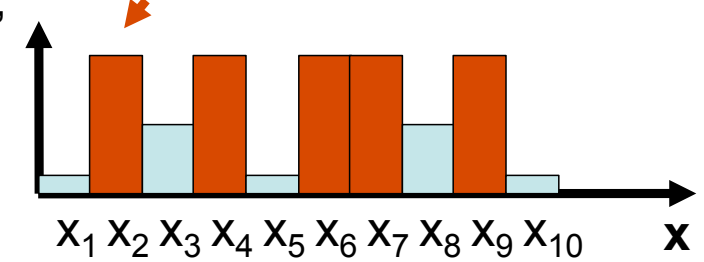


**evaluate likelihood**

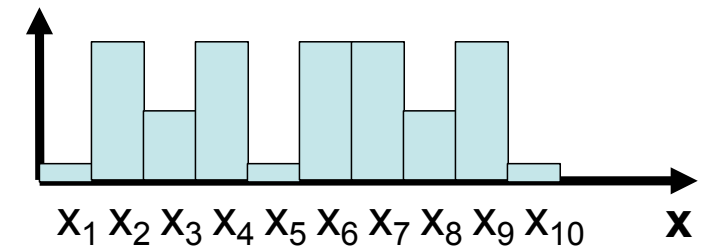
$P(z_1|x_1)$

“high”

“low”

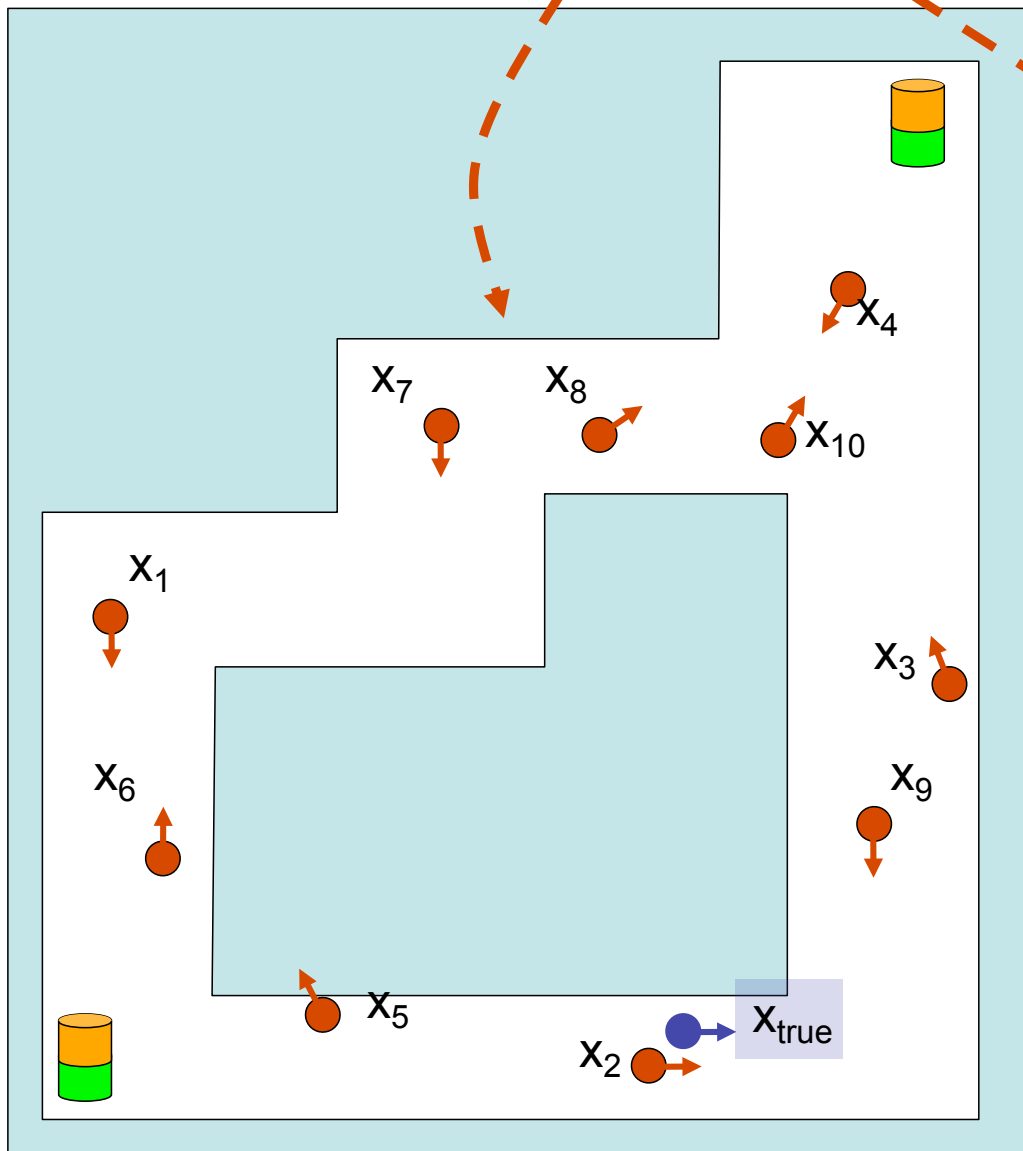


$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \sum_x (P(z_1|x_1))$$



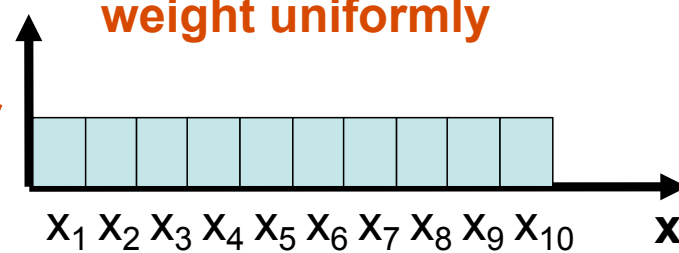
particle hypotheses

	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$	$x_{10}$
$i_x$										
$i_y$										
$i_h$										



$P(x_1)$

weight uniformly

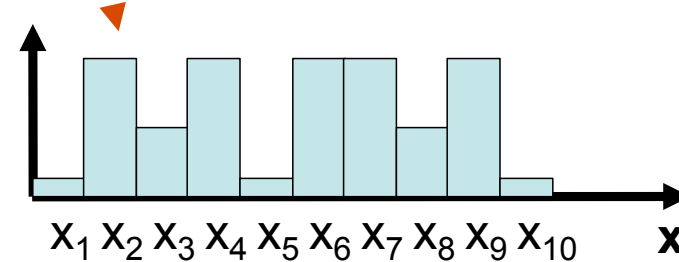


evaluate likelihood

$P(z_1|x_1)$

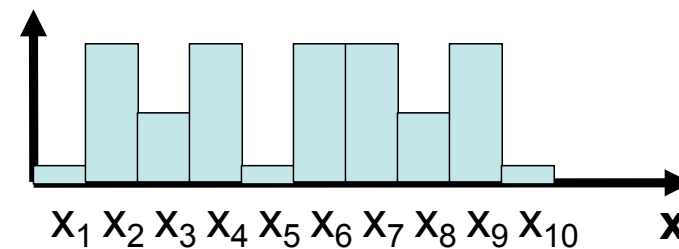
“high”

“low”

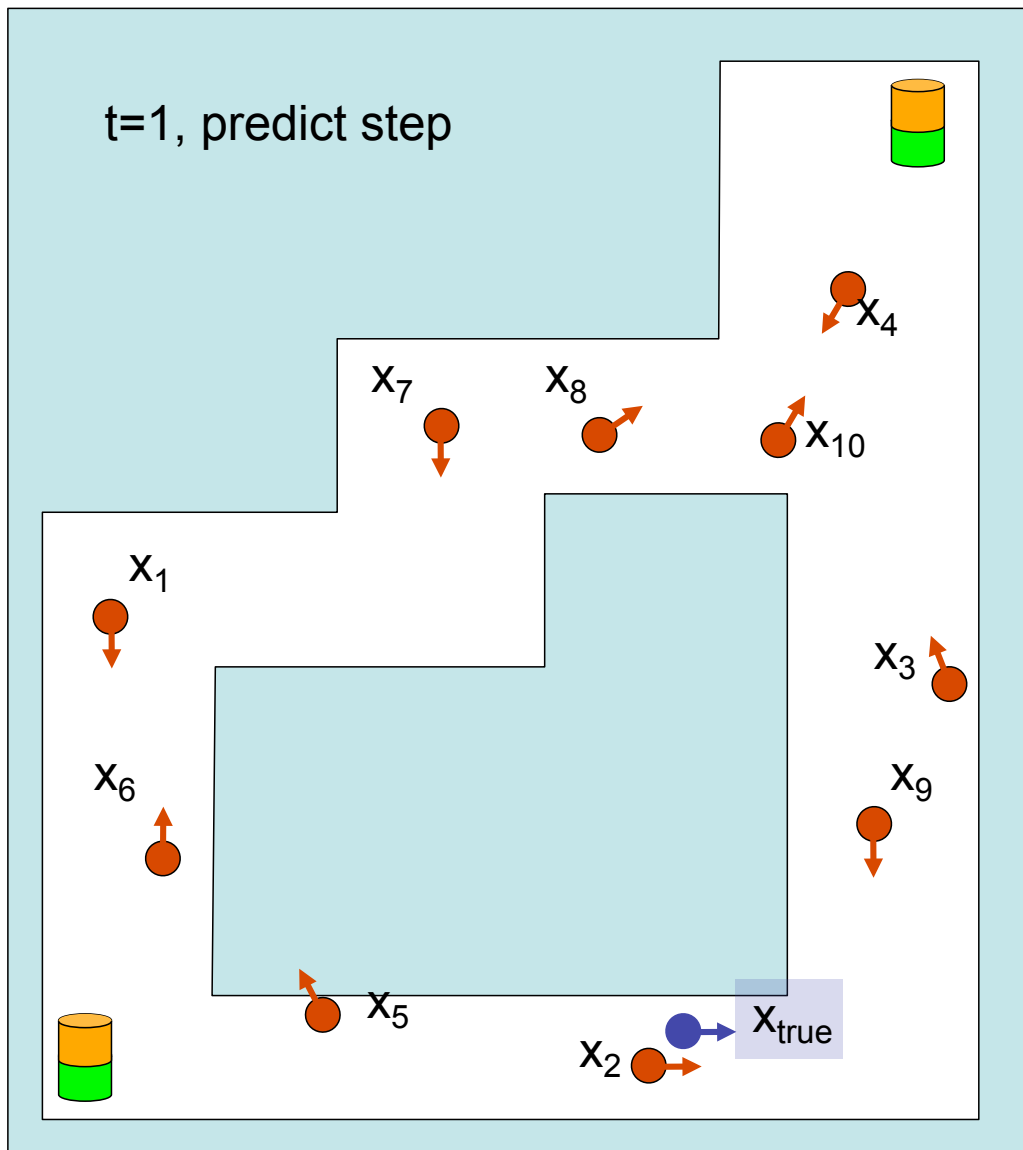


normalize sum

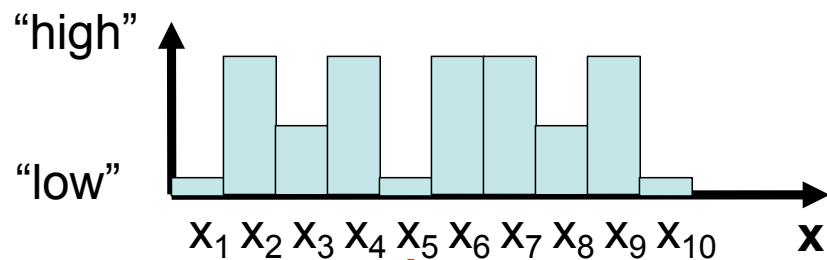
$$P(x_1|z_1) \leftarrow P(z_1|x_1) / \text{sum}_x(P(z_1|x_1))$$



t=1, predict step

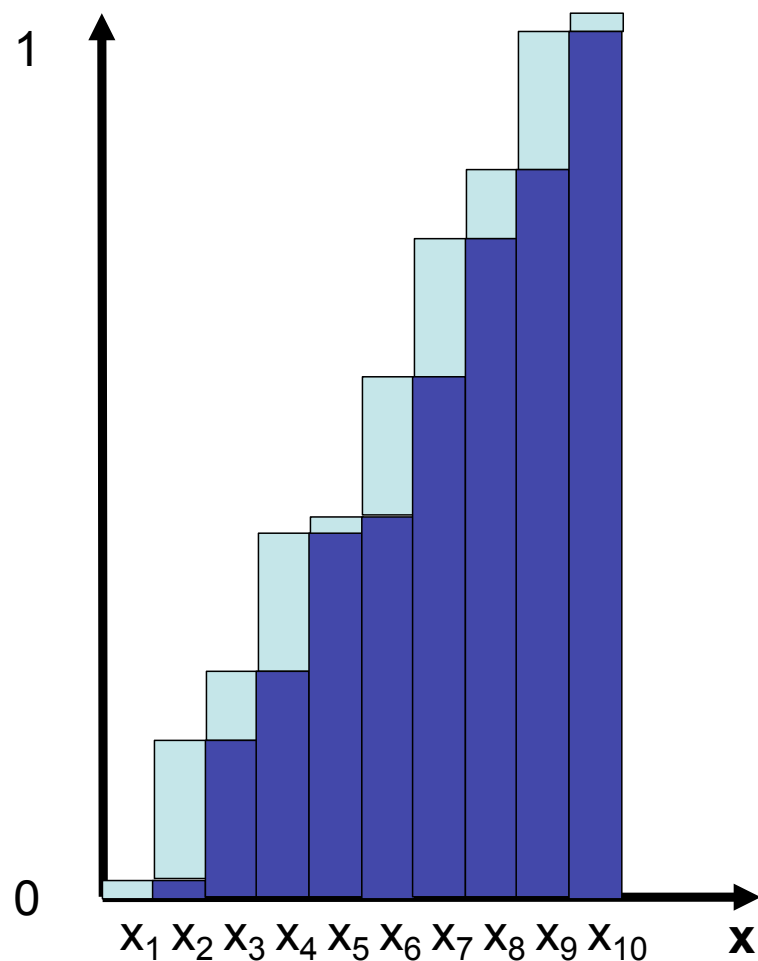


$$P(\mathbf{x}_1|\mathbf{z}_1) \leftarrow P(\mathbf{z}_1|\mathbf{x}_1) / \text{sum}_{\mathbf{x}}(P(\mathbf{z}_1|\mathbf{x}_1))$$



running sum,  
normalize range

$$\text{cumsum}(P(\mathbf{x}_1|\mathbf{z}_1)) / \text{sum}(P(\mathbf{x}_1|\mathbf{z}_1))$$

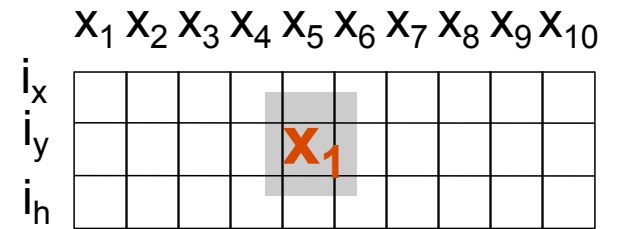
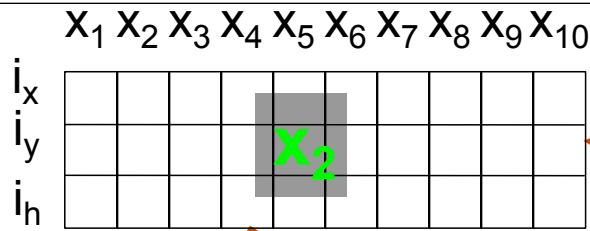




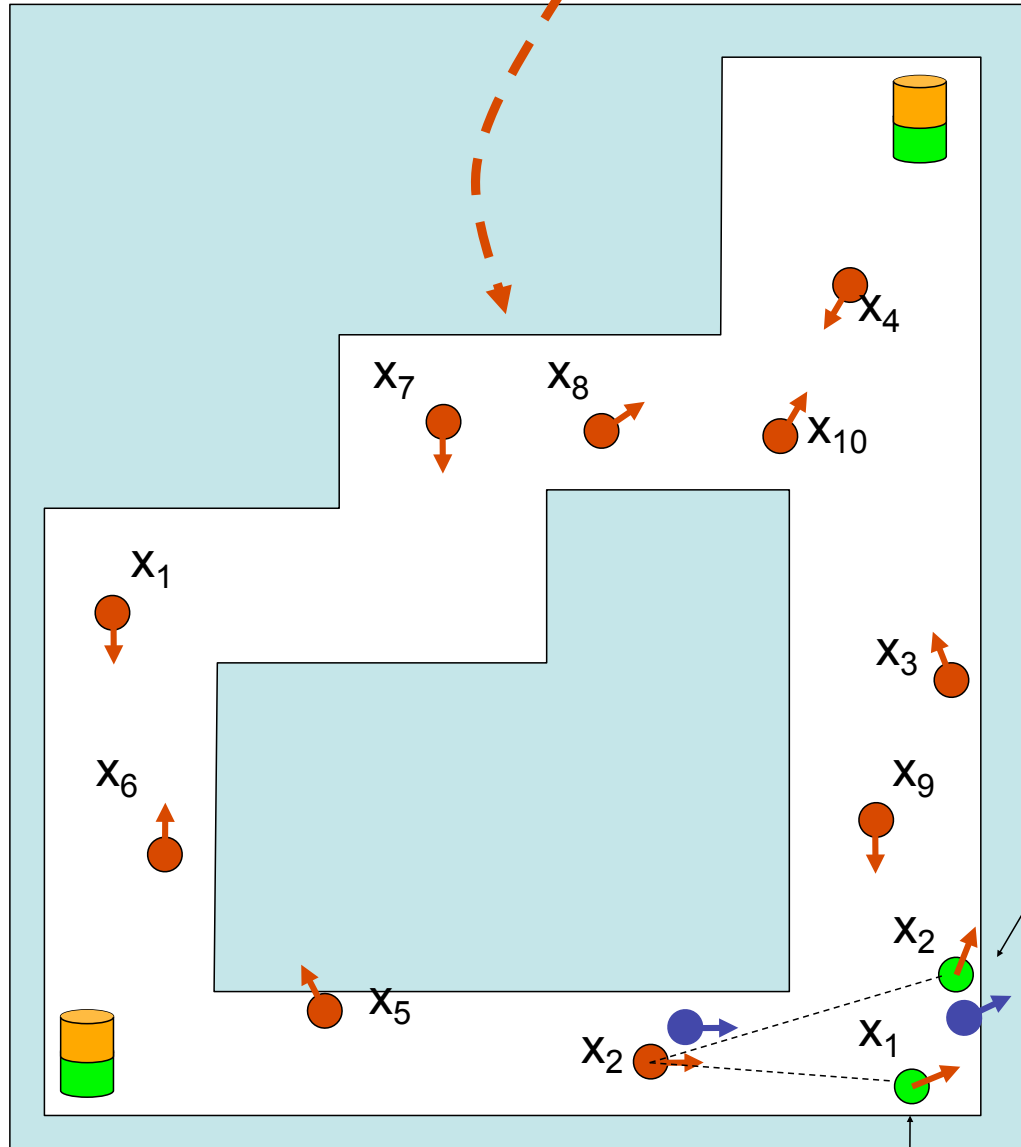




particle hypotheses



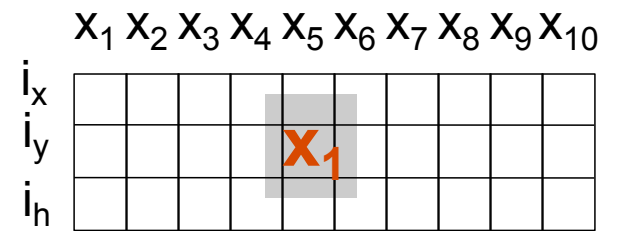
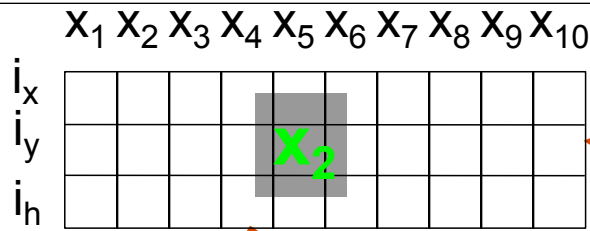
**0 2 1 1 0 2 2 1 1 0**  
add odometry with noise



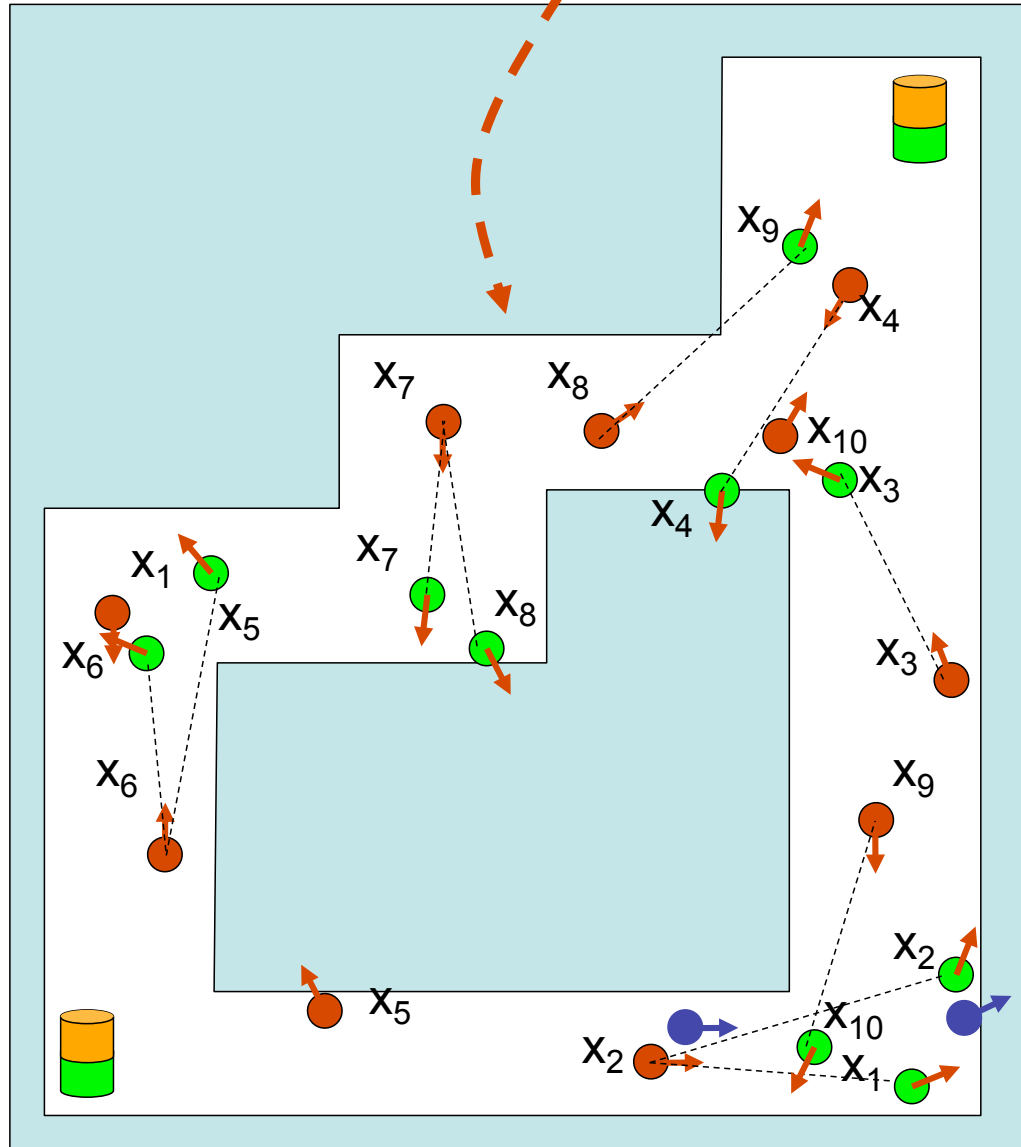
the new x<sub>2</sub> ← the old x<sub>2</sub> + (Δ<sub>x</sub>+noise, Δ<sub>y</sub>+noise, Δ<sub>h</sub>+noise)

the new x<sub>1</sub> ← the old x<sub>2</sub> + (Δ<sub>x</sub>+noise, Δ<sub>y</sub>+noise, Δ<sub>h</sub>+noise)

particle hypotheses



**0 2 1 1 0 2 2 1 1 0**  
add odometry with noise

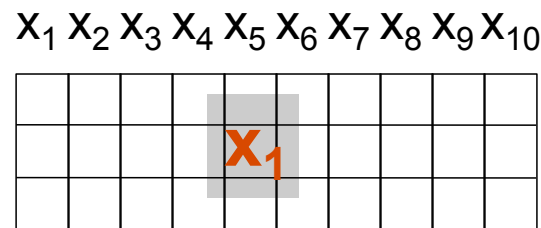
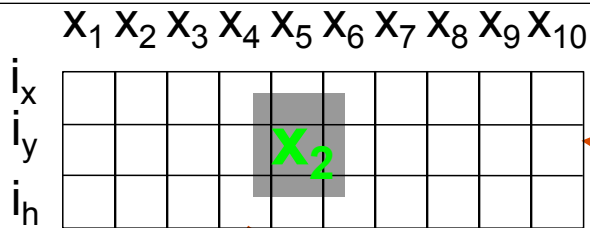


$i_y$

$i_h$

$i_x$

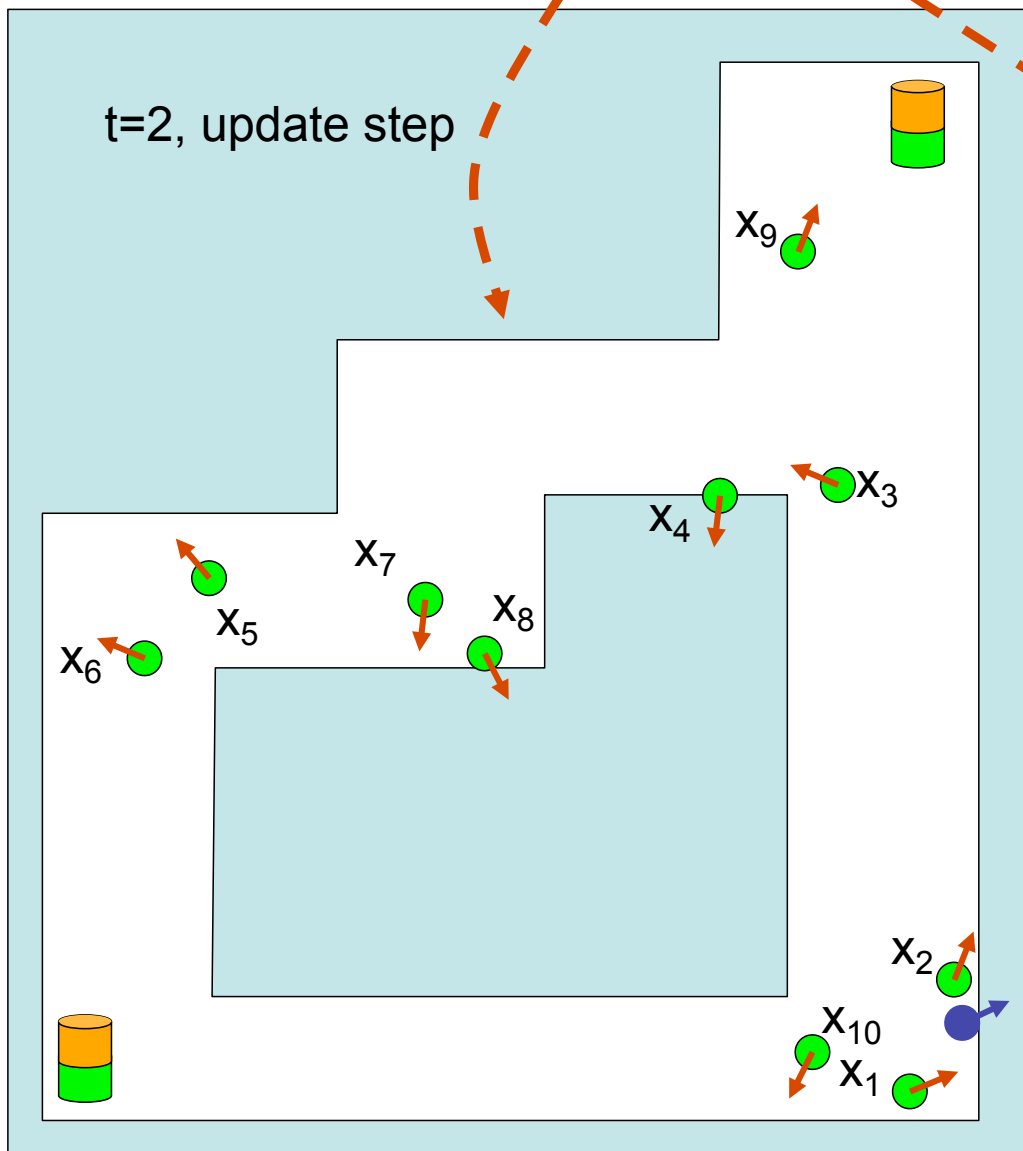
particle hypotheses



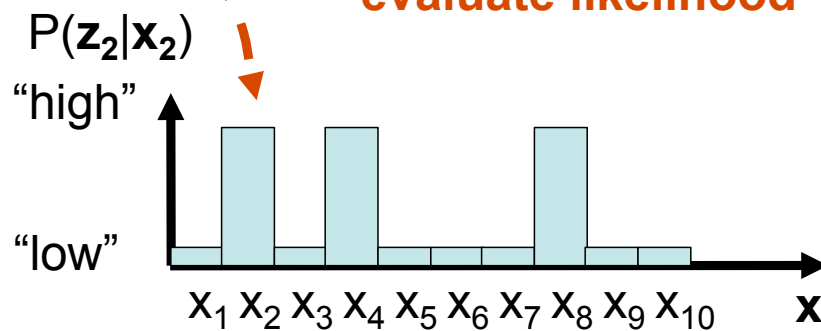
0 2 1 1 0 2 2 1 1 0

add odometry with noise

t=2, update step

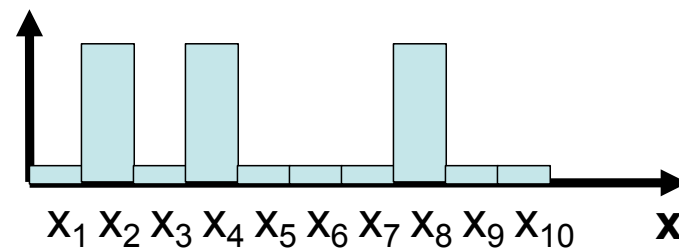


evaluate likelihood

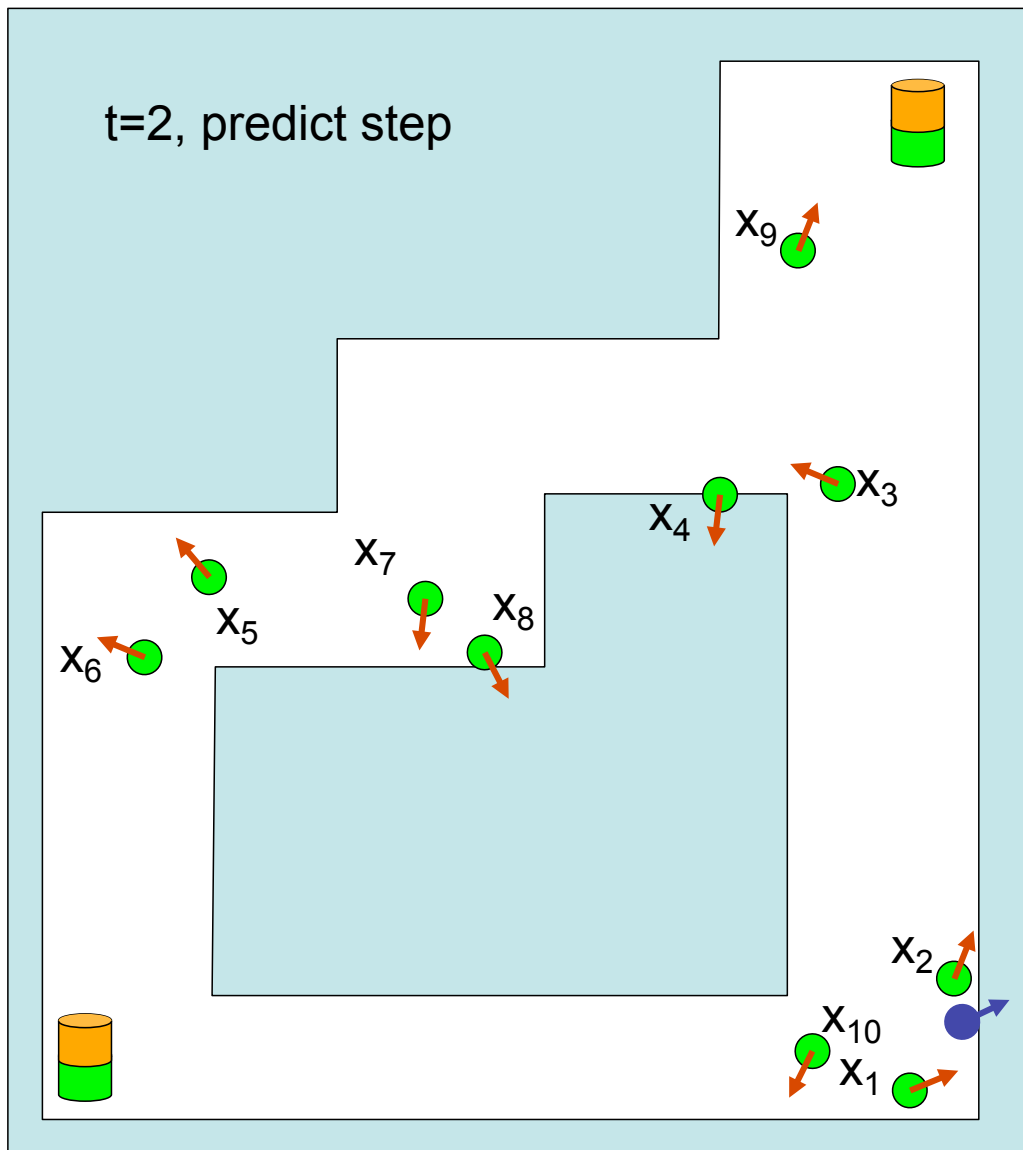


normalize sum

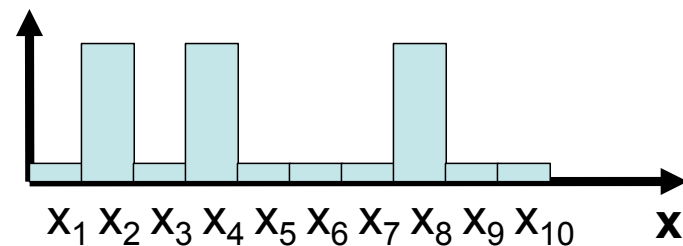
$$P(x_{1:2}|z_{1:2}) \leftarrow P(z_2|x_2) / \sum_x (P(z_2|x_2))$$



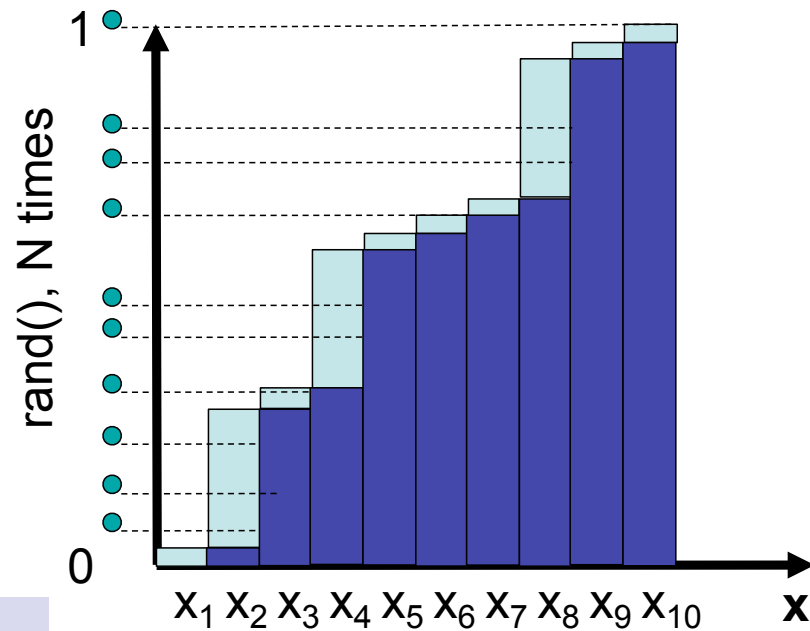
t=2, predict step



$$P(\mathbf{x}_{1:2}|\mathbf{z}_{1:2}) \propto P(\mathbf{z}_2|\mathbf{x}_2) / \sum_{\mathbf{x}} (P(\mathbf{z}_2|\mathbf{x}_2))$$



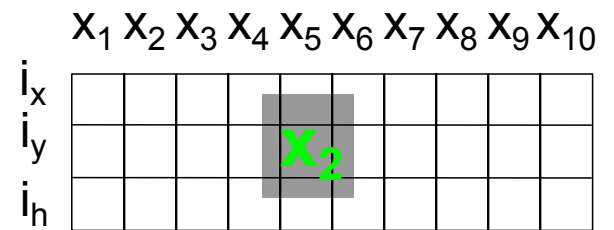
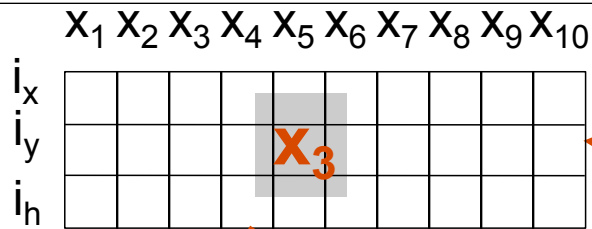
$$\text{cumsum}(P(\mathbf{x}_{1:2}|\mathbf{z}_{1:2})) / \text{sum}(P(\mathbf{x}_{1:2}|\mathbf{z}_{1:2}))$$



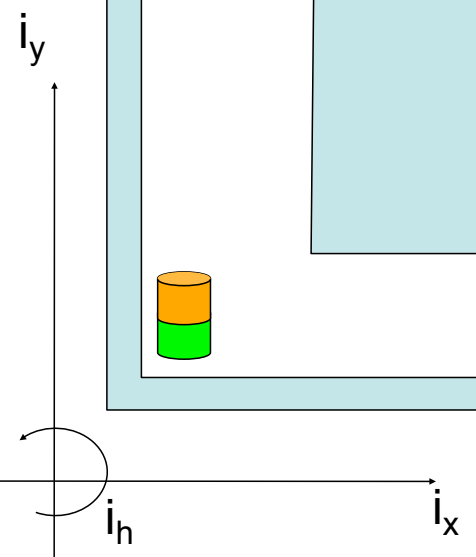
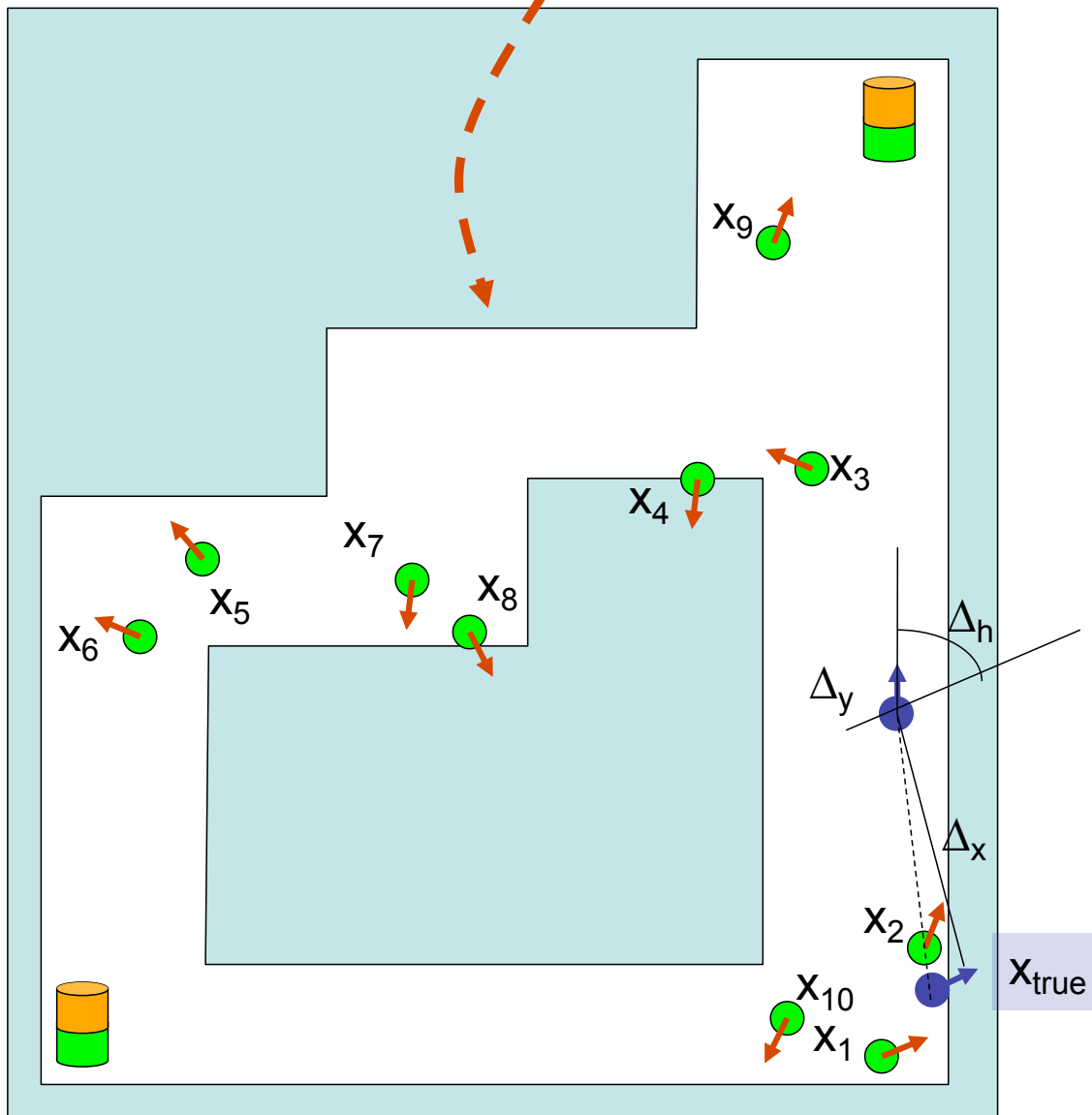
**0 3 1 2 0 0 1 2 0 1**

**# resamples per hypothesis**

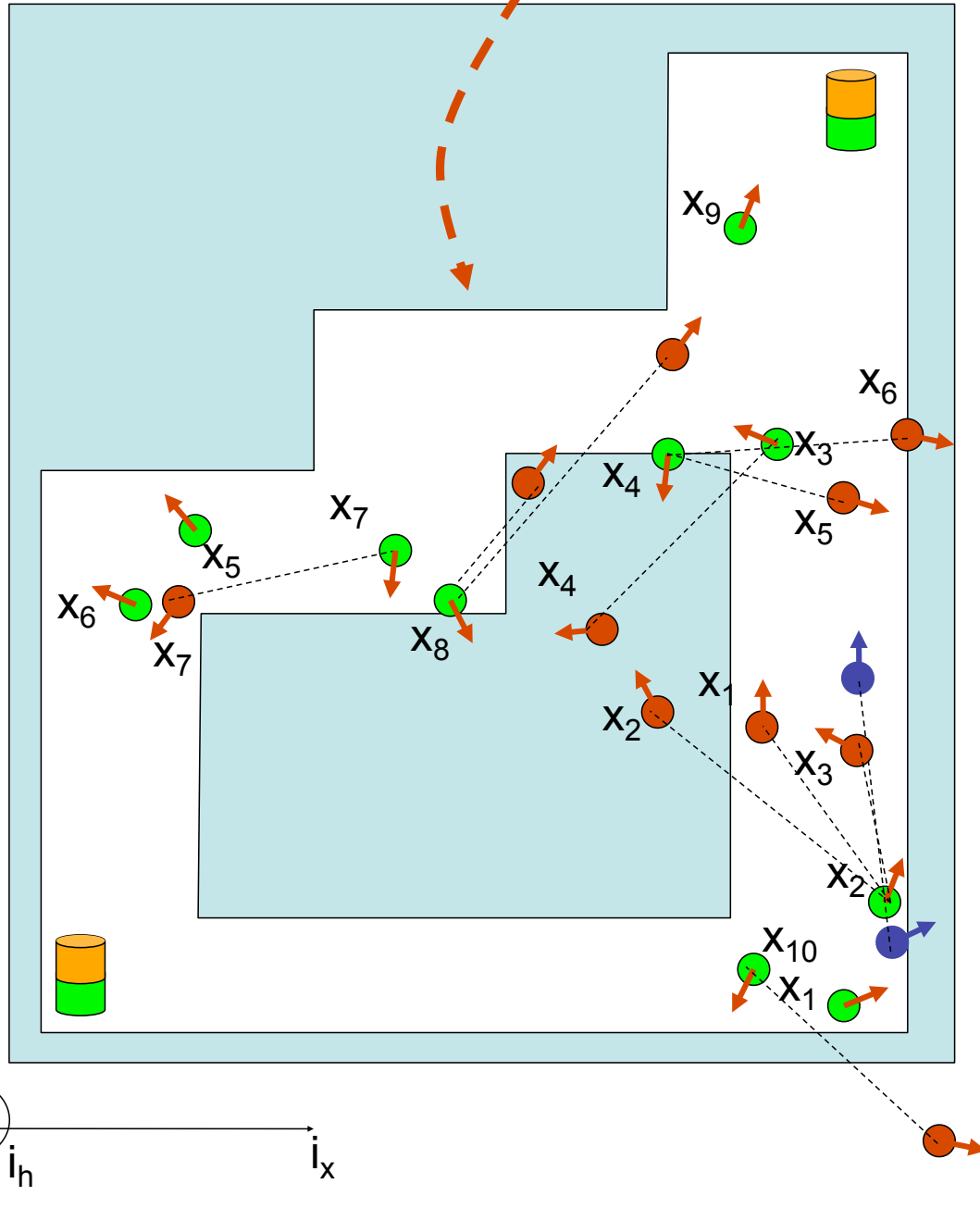
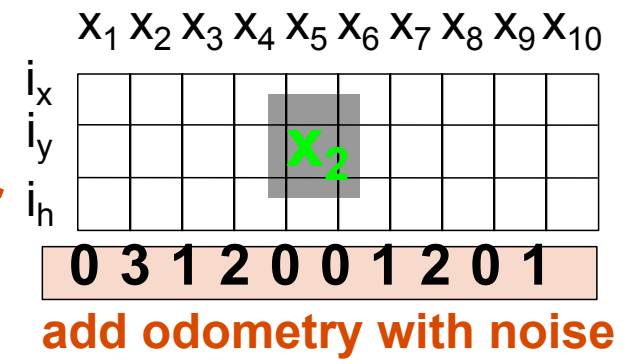
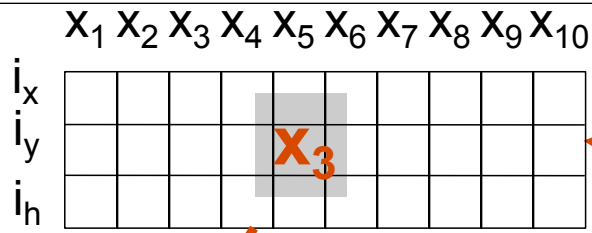
particle hypotheses



**0 3 1 2 0 0 1 2 0 1**  
add odometry with noise

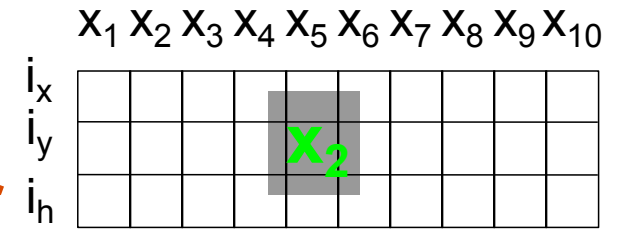
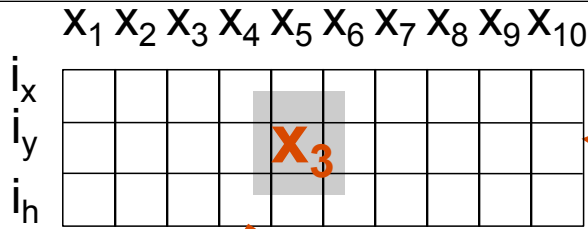


particle hypotheses



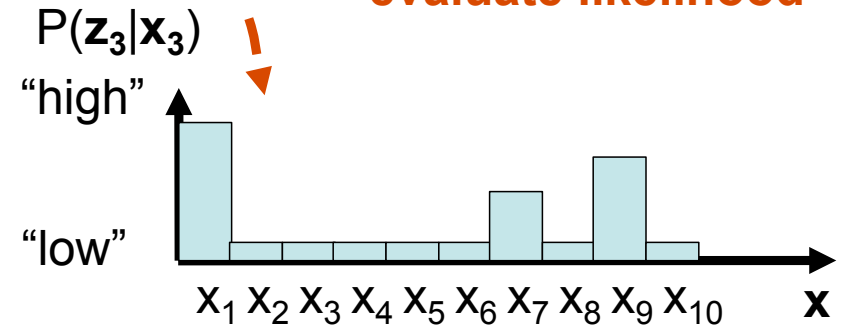


particle hypotheses



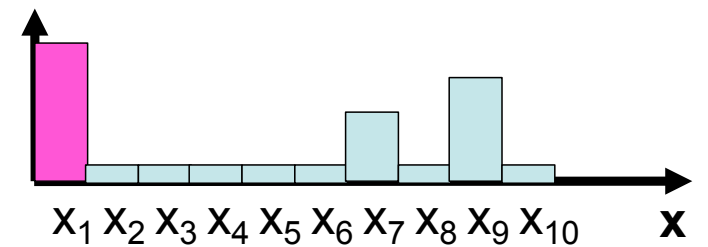
0 3 1 2 0 0 1 2 0 1  
add odometry with noise

evaluate likelihood



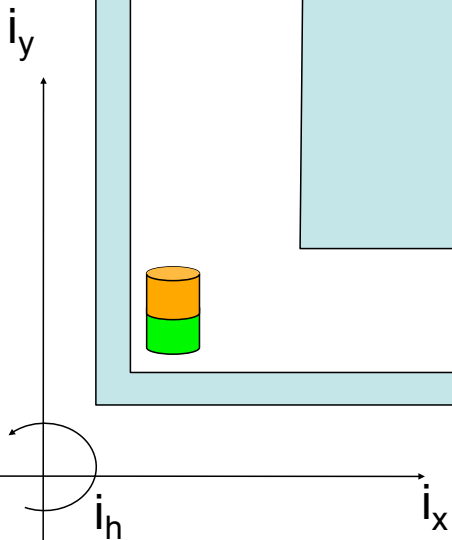
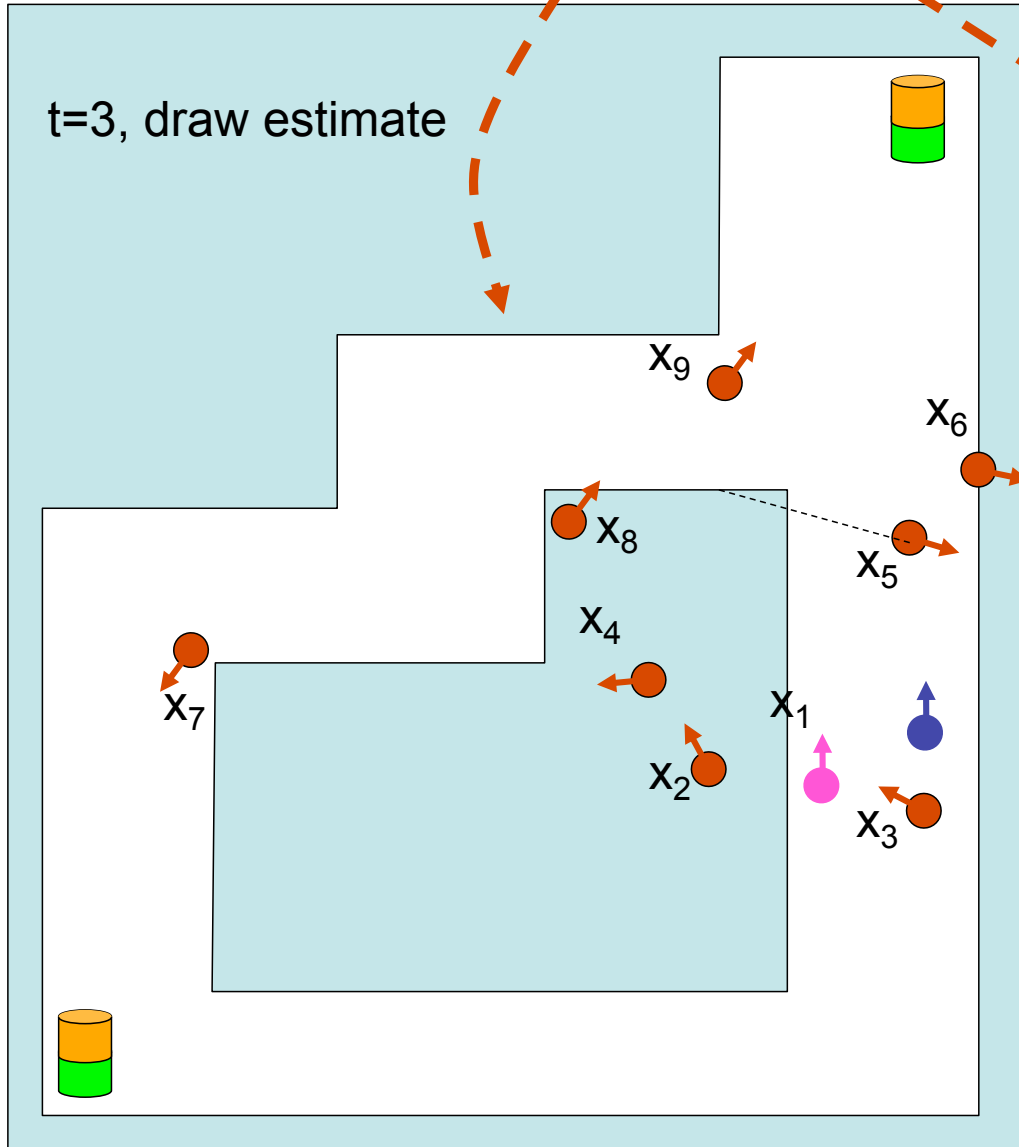
normalize sum

$$P(x_{1:3}|z_{1:3}) \leftarrow P(z_3|x_3) / \sum_x (P(z_3|x_3))$$



At any point, select location as max, mean, or robust mean

t=3, draw estimate



# Open Issues

- How many particles?
- How to evaluate likelihood?
- How much odometry noise?
- What if my estimate is wrong?

